

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 43 (October 20-26, 2013)

I have been "blessed" with a self-diagnosed case of Attention Deficit Disorder (A.D.D.). I choose that verb on purpose because the disorder allows me to see some things that others may miss. Those of us who are A.D.D. need to focus on **one thing** at a time. You will see from this week's study why that can be a good quality for a follower of Jesus Christ.

Sunday -- October 20 (Luke 10:38-42)

Let's return to last week's text to begin the thoughts for this new study. Jesus wants Martha and you to know that focusing on Him is more important than all other activities (v. 42). Here He says, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only **one thing** is needed." This verse is equivalent to Matthew 6:33 when He says, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Are you able to focus on **The Main Thing**? I often say that the main thing is to be sure that **The Main Thing** remains the main thing. I am blessed to be able to process only **one thing** at a time, but I am challenged because I lose my focus easily, even when I am praying. Ask God to help you prioritize your time and thoughts so that He never gets only the leftover part of your daily schedule.

Monday -- October 21 (Romans 13:8-10)

A Christian must always be sure to pay all of his/her bills in a timely manner. The only debt we are to leave outstanding is the "continuing debt to love one another" (v. 8). Paul summarizes a few of the 10 commandments just to teach that **only one** rule is needed: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (v. 9). That's great! God gives more than six hundred commands in the Old Testament and Paul rolls them all into one! Think about this from a practical standpoint. If you truly love your neighbor in this way, you will be keeping the Golden Rule: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). None of us, whether we are A.D.D. or not, could ever keep up with 600 plus rules, but we should flourish with **only one**! Now here's the clincher: "God is love" (1 John 4:16) and Jesus is God (John 10:33); therefore, "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4). Relax! The Master is in charge!

Tuesday -- October 22 (Psalm 27)

I wrote on this psalm on October 5-6, 2012, but we will look at it again from a "single focus" viewpoint. The Lord establishes that He is in control, so we have nothing to fear (v. 1). We certainly do not need to be afraid of man or anything he can do to us (v. 2-3). This brings us back to another "single focus" verse: "**One thing I ask** of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple" (v. 4, emphasis mine). I hope you also, like David, are becoming Heavenly minded. Many of you have already lost your mother and father to death and a few of you may have been forsaken or abandoned by them in your childhood. The psalmist is saying that God will receive all who call on Him and give them a **permanent family** in His Heavenly Kingdom (v. 10). Isn't this enough to make you proclaim with David, "**One thing I ask** of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life . . .?"

Wednesday -- October 23 (John 9:25)

I used the ninth chapter of John last year in week 45, but I return to this one verse to emphasize this teaching that a single focus person can easily grasp. The man in this text was born blind (v. 1) and was healed by Jesus on the Jewish Sabbath (v. 14), leaving the religious leaders to conclude that the Lord is a sinner for healing on their holy day (v. 24). The man gives my favorite testimony: "Whether He is a sinner or not, I don't know. **One thing I do know**. I was blind but now I see!" (v. 25, emphasis mine) You may not know as many Bible verses as someone else; you may not know about being delivered from drugs and alcohol and sex; you may not even know about mending a broken home. What you do know, however, you are required to tell to others so that they will know that Jesus Christ is Lord! Anyone who has found salvation in Jesus can echo the blind man and say, "**One thing** I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Thursday -- October 24 (Mark 10:17-27)

I spent two days on this text on February 17-18, 2012. A rich young ruler approaches Jesus to ask how many good things he must do (salvation by works) to inherit eternal life (v. 17). Jesus will not allow the man to call Him "good" unless he knows that **He is God** (v. 18). To show the young man what a sinner he is, Jesus quotes a few of the commandments (v. 19). The rich fellow claims to have kept all the commandments flawlessly since he was a little boy. Jesus loves the man enough to point out the fact that he is addicted to his personal riches (v. 21). In doing so, He gives me another single focus verse: "**One thing** you lack." The "poor" rich man loves his possessions so much that he can not adequately love the Lord. Many preachers misquote this passage by saying that the rich man was commanded to give **everything** he had to the poor, but the verse does not say that. He merely tells him to make his assets liquid, make an offering to the poor and follow Him. It is too much for the man to accept, so he walks away broken hearted without salvation (v. 22). We will follow his story tomorrow.

Friday -- October 25 (Mark 10:17-27)

Jesus turns to His disciples to make an important point: "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God" (v. 23). He illustrates this fact by saying, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (v. 25). Some have taught that travelers in those days had to unload a camel and have it crawl through a hole in the fence on its belly. They teach that this hole was referred to as "the eye of a needle." Jesus says it is **impossible** for a man to do this so you don't need to reason out how it can be accomplished. Instead, He wants you to know that salvation is a **gift** from Him to you. You can't buy it and you can't earn it! You only need to accept this free gift. If you have not done that, then you should understand the **one thing** you lack! Ask Him to save you right now!

Saturday -- October 26 (Philippians 3:10-16)

We will conclude our A.D.D. study with this passage that I quote each morning during my private prayer time. I do this because "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death" (v. 10). Like Paul, I'm not there yet, "but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (v. 12). How can I ever hope to get to this surrendered place in my spiritual journey? By focusing on the "**One thing** I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead . . ." (v. 13, emphasis mine). I can keep my eyes on the goal of being like Christ and continue to move forward (v. 14). I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know Who holds tomorrow. Now, go back and count the commands we have studied this week to concentrate on **one thing**. Whether you multi-task or "single focus," thank God today for His eternal gift on which we all can focus!