

# Living the Legacy

Defining Priorities in Life



# Defining Priorities

“...something given or meriting attention before competing alternatives...”

- Webster's Dictionary

# The Context of the “Shema”

- <sup>1</sup> These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,
- <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.
- <sup>3</sup> Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

(Deuteronomy 6:1-3)

# God's Fourfold Purpose

1. So that we and our children may fear God.
2. So that we may enjoy long life.
3. So that it may go well with us.
4. And that we may increase greatly.

# The “Shema”

- 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
  - 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
  - 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
  - 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
  - 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.
  - 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
- (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

# Priorities in the “Shema”

1. Hearing God’s Truth  
(*“Hear, O Israel...”*)
2. Loving God  
(*“Love the Lord...”*)
3. Building Families  
(*“Impress them on your children...”*)
4. Changing Communities  
(*“...your houses and your gates...”*)

## Priority 4: Changing Communities

“Tie them as symbols on your hands and  
bind them on your foreheads.

Write them on the doorframes of your  
houses and on your gates.”

(Deuteronomy 6:8-9)



JESUS  
LOVES  
THE HELL  
OUT OF  
YOU

GOT GOD?

IT'S HELL  
WITHOUT HIM!

- Tie them as symbols.
- On your hands and foreheads.

“The Word became  
flesh and dwelt  
among us and we  
beheld His glory.”  
(John 1:14)

“He lives with you  
and will be in you.”  
(John 14:17)

# Changing Communities

*A Single Principle  
to Live by:*

*Faith in Jesus  
Personal,  
Public, and  
Permanent*

*“When they saw the  
courage of Peter and  
John and realized  
they were  
unschooled,  
ordinary men, they  
were astonished and  
they took note that  
these men had been  
with Jesus.” (Acts  
4:13)*

- Write them on the doorframes of your houses.
- And on your [city] gates.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people...they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.”

(Jeremiah 31:33-34)