

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## God And Your Plans

**Matthew 6:31-33**

Sunday, January 24, 2015

**<sup>31</sup>“So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear? <sup>32</sup>These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup>Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**

A doctor reports that he went to see a patient who was coming out of anesthesia. Far off church chimes sounded. "I must be in heaven," the woman murmured. Then she saw me. "No, I can't be," she said. "There's Dr. Campbell." Now there was a woman who was disappointed with her outcome!

We are perfectly happy when when things turn out the way we planned. What happens when they don't? Are you okay with God, or do you carry something of a grudge? Could it be that the only god we want is one who behaves the way we think he should? Should he just support our dreams and aspirations (how we think the world should go)?

### HOW YOUR PLANS GET SIDETRACKED

The world, the flesh, and the devil are all too willing to lure you into making anything a higher priority than the things of God.

**1 John 5:21**

**<sup>21</sup>Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.**

The King James version says, "**Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.**"

Could it be that the death of your plans is actually the death of your false god, which now frees you to worship the true One?

### SERVING GOD DESPITE OUR PLANS

C.S. Lewis said, "I have seen many striking answers to prayer and more than one that I thought miraculous. But they usually come at the beginning before conversion, or soon after it. As the Christian life proceeds, they tend to be rarer.

It seems that the Christian life should become easier, not harder, as it progresses? But, as Lewis points out, the New Testament gives two strong examples of unanswered prayers:

Jesus cried out three times for God to "Take this cup from me" and Paul begged God to cure the "thorn in my flesh."

We must not fall into the trap of serving God for what He can provide. Life works when we determine that we will serve Him for Him, alone. The best way to prove this is when we do not get what we want.

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Jesus is saying, in essence, "Now we will see whether I'm your God, or whether you've got some other god you can control."

The ironic truth is that the Lord views our times of failure as opportunities to test us. Unanswered prayer is a very big part of His program to show us what means the most in your world.

Hudson Taylor had definite convictions about how God's work should be done. We can make our best plans and try to carry them out in our own strength. Or we can make careful plans and ask God to bless them. "Yet another way of working is to begin with God; to ask His plans, and to offer ourselves to Him to carry out His purposes."

**Revelation 22:13**

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."**

Jesus proclaims in the final book of the Bible that everything begins and ends with Him. He should be the reason for every choice and act of your life.