

**April 11**

**Scriptures:** Read 1 Timothy 5

**Key Verse:** “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”  
(1 Timothy 5:8)

## **Overview**

In my personal notes, I’ve entitled verses 4 and 8, “Priorities in Christian living”. Being religious can be very pleasurable and self-fulfilling. It can appeal attractively to our innate predisposition to self-righteousness and pride. It can even be fun. But it can also totally miss the point. Who are we trying to impress in our religiosity? Ourselves? Our neighbour? God? It’s easy to please ourselves — especially by comparing ourselves favourably to “ungodly” friends and relatives, It’s even easy to impress our neighbours — most of us are sure to notice someone’s fervent piety — but how does one move God?

Jesus demonstrated in so many instances that religion can be self-serving and totally out of line with God’s will and pleasure. In fact, on one occasion He referred to the most committed religious of His day as “whited sepulchres”. Paul (1 Cor.13) made it very clear that even spiritual giftedness was obnoxious to God (“clashing cymbals”) if there was no prior commitment to love.

That’s why our profession of faith is hollow if we are not caring for our own family. We can pray and celebrate faith all we want, but it’s obnoxious if God, who sees all, knows we’re neglecting the needs of our parents. God is no fool; He can’t be conned.

James, Jesus’ half-brother, put it this way, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble...” (Jas.1:27). Let your hands and feet do the talking!

## **Prayer**

Father, You have said that You seek for worshippers who will worship You in spirit and truth. We ask that You give us wisdom and understanding to rightfully divide the Word of truth, that we might please You in all our relationships, especially those in our own families.