

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.  
Colossians 3:17

We love to take care of ourselves and be happy. We want to do things that are enjoyable and if we need to do something that we don't think is much fun, we find good reasons to excuse ourselves.

So how does that fit with our obligation to put God first? Putting God first can be difficult work. It's a lot easier for us to put ourselves first. It's so easy for us to be comfortable, to take the easy way out. But how about doing the things that are hard, that take us out of our comfort zone? How about putting the things of God first? It can bring discomfort, it can bring persecution. Are we ready to take that on?

Our brothers and sisters around the world are being persecuted for doing nothing but loving the Lord our God with all their being and loving their neighbors as themselves. Imagine having such a strong relationship with God that you continue putting Him first when everything around you becomes hardship and pain.

Our problem is that we are too comfortable. We go to church, Bible study and prayer meetings when we want (and don't go when we don't want!) We know there is no pressure and no danger. Would you still go if it was breaking the law and could mean imprisonment? How about if it could mean being put to death? American Christianity is not pleasing to God. We need to recognize that doing something that's comfortable to us really isn't doing it for God – it's doing it for ourselves. We need to start doing things for God. It'll be hard. We'll know we're going down the right path when it's painful. When you feel that, don't quit – keep on going. Get out of your comfort zone. Do it for God.