

## Thought for the Day 7th August - John Reed

Read Romans 8:1-11

I was astonished this morning to read about a young man in Sydney who contracted COVID-19.

Not because he caught the virus – sadly, far too many people are doing that these days. No, what surprised me was the number of places it is feared he may have spread it. Apparently, he had visited seven restaurants, pubs, and a Woolworths within 48 hours.<sup>1</sup>

Seven restaurants and pubs within 48 hours? Or is that seven restaurants and an unknown number of pubs? It could read either way. Whichever it is, I reckon that's my tally for the entire year!

It made me stop and think about how our priorities shape how we spend our time, the places we go, what we spend our money – the way we live our lives. Clearly, this young man enjoys a healthy social life. Presumably his friends, his food, his drink, are important to him.

And there's nothing essentially *wrong* with any of those things. But if that's what you live for, you may be missing the point of life.

Jesus put it this way in Matthew 6:31-33:

*Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

We all need clothes, food, friends, and so on. But we have a greater need: to know God. And that should be our first priority in life.

And that priority should shape the way we live. As Paul puts it here in verse 5:

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

If, like that young man, you suddenly found the details of your social life in the past 48 hours splashed across the front page of the newspaper, what would it reveal about your priorities in life?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-s-new-cluster-fears-after-covid-19-case-has-big-weekend-20200806-p55jan.html>