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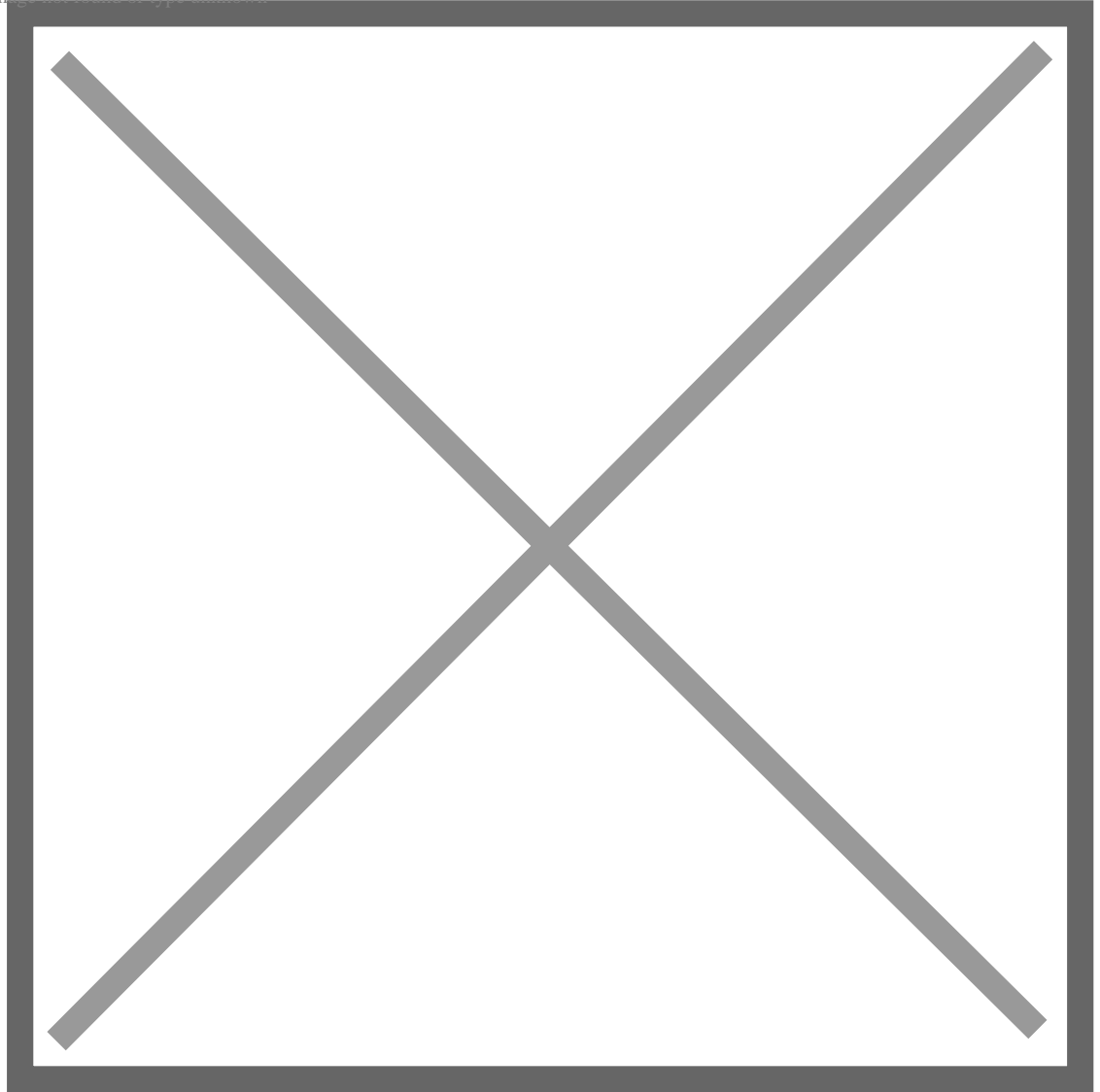
GOSPEL PEARLS

More important than God?

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"Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" (Luke 17: 7-10)

All sin and vice is rooted in pride with which we fool ourselves into thinking we are more important than God. The reality is that, despite all our best efforts, we are really nothing without God. In this regard, it should be noted that Sacred Scripture refers often to idolaters: persons who cherish other things above God. May we constantly and conscientiously put God first in our lives, even before ourselves and our legitimate ideas or aspirations.