

Sermon Quotes
December 28, 2008
First Things

In this study, we want to pursue the answer to this Question:

Of all the things we could be doing in the New Year, what are the things that matter most? What are the "First Things?"

Matthew 22:34-38 ESV But when the Pharisees heard that he (Jesus) had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. (35) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. (36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) **This is the great and first commandment.**"

Exodus 20:1-3 ESV And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **You shall have no other gods before me.**"

1 John 4:19 ESV "We love because HE FIRST LOVED us."

*"God Himself pursues a love relationship with you. He is the One who takes the initiative to bring you into this kind of relationship. **He created you for a love relationship with Himself. That is the very purpose of your life...**What is the one thing God wants from you? He wants you to love Him with all your being. That is the greatest commandment. Your experiencing God depends on you having this relationship of love."*

—Henry Blackaby

John 15:9-11 ESV "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in (*Live in, Dwell in*) my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**"

Galatians 2:20 ESV “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And **the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**”¹

Romans 8:31-32 ESV “What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us**, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

Romans 8:38-39 ESV “For I am sure (convinced) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Revelation 2:1-5 ESV "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. (2) "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. (3) I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. (4) But **I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.** (5) **Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.** If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.