

**Sermon Quotes**  
**January 4<sup>th</sup> , 2008**  
**First Things pt.2**

*“Technology has not lived up to its promise to usher in an age of leisure...Most researchers agree that leisure time has decreased [since 1973]...we are spending more time working, more time commuting, more time running errands, more time meeting the obligations of life. The computer, trumpeted as the final key technology that would do for the drudgery of mental labor what machines had (supposedly) done for physical labor, has brought about the opposite: more time spent in offices, at desks, at keyboards. By now it is apparent that the computer has not eliminated the drudgery of office work, any more than the steam engine eliminated the ordeal of physical labor...The solution? Again it is more technology, more labor-saving devices, greater efficiency, better “time management.”*

—Charles Einstein

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. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is **the great commandment** in the Law?" 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. **This is the great and first commandment.**"

**Isaiah 50:4** ESV “The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught... **morning by morning** he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.”

“The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.”

—C.S. Lewis

*“How we begin our morning so often sets the tone for the day. I'm convinced that the most decisive time of our day is very often our first waking moments, because they color everything to come...Purpose by grace that your first thought of the day will be an expression of your dependence on God, your need for God, and your confidence in God.”*

—CJ Mahaney

**Psalms 16:5-9** ESV “The LORD is **my chosen portion** and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.”

Two Self-Test Questions:

1. What are the things that distract you right now?
2. What are the things that make you anxious and troubled?

*“Are you growing more in your devotion to the Savior or toward the demands of your schedule?”*

—Steve Shank

*“All regenerated persons ought to be workers for God and with God, but let the working never swamp the believing, never let the servant be more prominent than the son. Never, because you conduct a class, or are chief man at a village station, forget that you are a sinner saved by grace, and still have need to be looking to the Crucified One, and finding all your life in him. You lose your strength as a worker if you forget your dependence as a believer. To labor for Christ is a pleasant thing, but beware of doing it mechanically; and this you can only prevent by diligently cultivating personal communion with Christ. My brother, it may be you will undertake so much service that your time will be occupied, and you will have no space for prayer and reading the Word. The half-hour in the morning for prayer will be cut short, and the time allotted for communion with God will be gradually entrenched upon by this engagement or that occupation, and when this is the case I tremble for you... You are doing your soul serious mischief if you put the whole of your strength into that part of your life which is visible to men, and forget that portion of your life which is secret between you and your God.”*

—Charles Spurgeon