

“GOD-CENTERED—GOD’S GLORY COMES BEFORE ALL HUMAN AGENDAS”

- Key verses
 - ◆ Primary verse – Matthew 6:33 “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness”
 - ◆ Prov 3:5,6 are also key – “Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart, lean not unto your own understanding.....”
- Why should we?
 - ◆ God intends the local church to be a display of His glory and wisdom
 - ⇒ To believers as well as unbelievers
 - ⇒ John 13:34 – 35; Eph 3:10 – 11
 - ◆ We are a corporate dwelling place for God’s Spirit
 - ⇒ We are a place where people should see God’s love emanating from our lives
 - ⇒ Eph 2:19 – 22; I Cor 3:16 – 17
 - ◆ We are to magnify Christ’s glory
 - ⇒ We are the local “portrait” of Christ to our neighbors – family, friends, neighbors
 - ⇒ Acts 9:4; I Cor 12
- How can we do this?
 - ◆ Spend time to get to know God
 - ⇒ This cannot be emphasized enough
 - ⇒ To “know” someone we have to spend time with that person
 - ⇒ No difference than with God
 - ⇒ Primary it involves: devotions – read the Word, study the Word, apply the Word and prayer
 - * We find it hard to find the time or motivation
 - * However, God gives us 24 hours per day – question is, “how do we spend it?”
 - * Falls back onto that terrible word – “Prioritize”
 - * I personally like to do mine first thing in the morning – sets off the day right
 - ◆ Fundamentally what we need to do is discipline ourselves in all that we do to ensure that God is first
 - ⇒ We need the motivation
 - ⇒ Motivation comes from understanding Who God really is and what He has done for us
 - * A lesson we tend to learn later in life
 - * However, it is a continual process for our entire lives
- What we can expect when put God is first
 - ◆ First of all, what has He promised
 - ⇒ “...ALL these things will be added unto you”
 - ⇒ “...and He will direct your paths”

- ◆ Don't you think that the very God Who created you in His image knows what is best for you?
 - ⇒ We tend to define "best" our way
 - ⇒ And so we tend to get our priorities all mixed up
 - ⇒ Is 55: 8, 9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- ◆ So what is God's "best" that He has in mind for us
 - ⇒ He views life from an eternal perspective
 - ⇒ We view it from a temporal perspective
 - ⇒ This includes all those that our "earthen vessels" come in contact with

- What will make GBF distinctive if we put God first?
 - ◆ First of all God will get all the glory and He will bless and it will be noticed by others
 - ⇒ Adam and Cindy
 - ⇒ Our journey to Mexico

 - ◆ We will have unity of ministry and purpose

 - ◆ We will demonstrate God's love in all we do and our neighbors will notice – not hypocrites

 - ◆ We will see others, within and outside of our church, through God's eyes, not ours