

SERIES: "1<sup>ST</sup> THINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> – THIS IS WHAT WE DO"

MESSAGE: "ONE THING ABOVE ALL THINGS"

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1. We live in a time of \_\_\_\_\_ change
2. We live in a time of \_\_\_\_\_ volatility
3. We live in a time of \_\_\_\_\_ tension
4. We live in a time of \_\_\_\_\_ doom

**What is the ONE THING, above ALL THINGS,  
you most want to LIVE FOR?**

*"1The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? <sup>2</sup>When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup>Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. <sup>4</sup>The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating ("seek him" – NIV; "to inquire" - NRSV) in his Temple. <sup>5</sup>For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. <sup>6</sup>Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the Lord with music." Psalm 27:1-6*

**Above all else, the Psalmist wanted to live a GOD-CENTERED LIFE, a life DIRECTED TOWARD GOD and a life ORGANIZED AROUND GOD; a life WITH God AT THE CENTER.**

**He was CONVINCED that this was the ONLY WAY to TRULY LIVE**

**According to the Psalmist, a God-centered life is**

1. A life oriented toward the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

In the ancient world, God's house was the Tabernacle or the Temple

- To worship God corporately
- To hear from and learn God's Word
- To be with God's people

In the modern world, God's house is the Church – the "ecclesia" (i.e. the "called out ones," the "gathered," or the "assembled")

- To worship God corporately
- To hear from and learn God's Word
- To be with God's people

*"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And **let us not neglect our meeting together**, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25*

2. A life focused on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

*"God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!" Genesis 1:31*

A God-centered life is a life that can see through anything and everything to behold the beauty of the Lord in all things.

*"This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought. This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass I hear Him pass; He speaks to me everywhere." Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901*

3. A life ever seeking the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- By taking our questions to God in prayer and listening for His Spirit's response
- By reading and applying God's Word
- By the godly counsel of God's people

*"Seek the Kingdom of God **above all else**, and **live righteously**, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 [NLT]*