

Sermon Notes – “Putting Christ First, Part I”

(January 15, 2023)

Sermon Texts: Psalm 37:3-8 & Matthew 6:31-34

Memory Verse: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” **Matthew 6:33**

Introduction: As Christians, our **first response** to God’s grace should be to **put Christ first** in our lives. Whereas God’s gracious assurances are received as gifts, our response to these gifts **implies action**. To love and serve God requires our **active participation** in the life God has prepared for us.

Focus Question: *Do you desire to know, please, and commune with God?*

I. Attitude (Matthew 6:31-34)

- Putting Christ first requires the **proper attitude**.
- “Do not worry” (vs 31) ... “seek first the kingdom and his righteousness” (vs. 33)
- Note: Worry equals **unbelief**. (“The pagans run after these things,” vs. 32)
- Seeking the kingdom and righteousness equals **belief**.

II. Action (Psalm 37:3-8)

- With the proper attitude, one can **act** as God intends.
- i.e., “*faith expressing itself in love.*” (The Apostle Paul, Galatians 5:6)
- **Trust** – that the Lord knows what is best for you. (vs. 3)
- **Take delight** – in your relationship with God in Christ. (vs. 4)
- **Commit** – to make the Lord’s way **your way**. (vs. 5)

Faith Challenge – Be intentional about creating a plan for “spiritual growth” that includes renewing your trust in God, making time for enjoying the Lord’s presence (meditation, prayer, worship, Bible study), and intentionally committing yourself to walking in God’s righteousness on a daily basis. Be sure to write it down and review it periodically. Modify it as necessary to increase its effectiveness. There is **no substitute** for **putting in the time!**