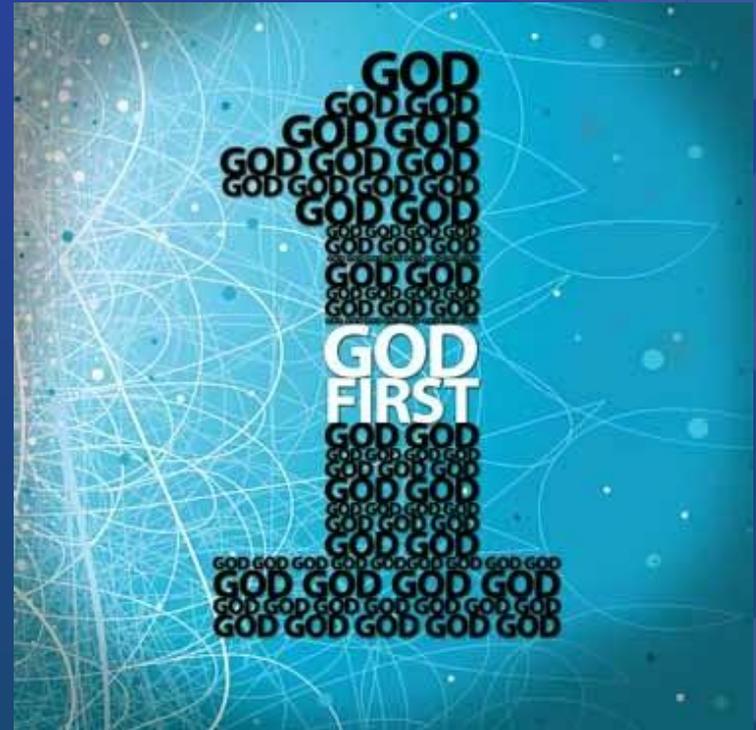




Putting Christ First....

St Mary & St Mina Coptic
Orthodox Church
Syracuse, NY

2018 Theme Presentation
January 1, 2018



What the Word of God tells us

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5)
- But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33)
- ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 10:37-39)



Application I – Communications

- When I wake up, is God the first person I talk to ?
- Do I start any work with a short prayer, asking God's guidance ?
- Do I pray before eating, thanking God for His gift and asking for His blessing?
- When I get back from work, is God the first person I talk to ?
- At night, is God the person I talk to at the end of the day, and is His Name on my lips when I go to bed



Application II: Physical vs. Spiritual Health



Question:

We care about our physical health, how about our spiritual health, and which one is first ???

- ***Physical food vs. Spiritual food***
 - But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)
 - He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him. (John 6:56)
- ***Physical exercise vs. spiritual exercise***
 - For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things.. (1 Tim 4:8)
- ***Physical checks vs. spiritual checks***
 - And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick (Luke 5:31)

Application III: Living

- When I look at how I spend my time and resources, what does that tell me about my priorities ?

- Time Inventory
- Budget Inventory



- Additional Questions:

- When we raise our kids, is their spiritual well-being our first priority ?
- When I make critical decisions in my life, is God my first priority ?
- When I am in trouble, is prayer my first resort or last resort ?

Summary

- Communications – prayer
- Health – spiritual nourishment, exercise and checks
- Living – time & resources, raising kids, decisions, depending upon God



Interesting Quote

- ***The only things that are worthwhile are those that reinforce one's connection to God. The things that humans pursue on earth are mostly pointless and meaningless.***

Long, Jeffrey. God and the Afterlife: The Groundbreaking New Evidence for God and Near-Death Experience (pp. 45-46). HarperCollins.

