STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH BY REDISCOVERING YOUR FOCUS

"Discovering your R.O.L.E. in the congregation."

March 12th, 2006

Personal Notes:

Sermon Notes:

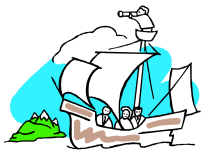
I Why is the focus important?

- A People at Ephesus had a change of focus: Acts 19
  - 1 Paul preached the gospel of Christ and people refocused their lives on Christ.
- B The writer of the Ephesian letter had a change of focus.
  - 1 (Acts 8:3; 9:20)
- C Christians become people of a different focus.
  - 1 See Matthew 6:33; Romans 6:1-13; Philippians 2:5

II What should not be the focus?

- A Programs should not be the focus.
- B Events should not be the focus.
- C Finances should not be the focus.
- D The building should not drive the church.
- E People should not determine the focus of the church.
  - 1 Personal opinion should not drive the church (Proverbs 19:21)
  - 2 The example of Diotrephes (3 John 9, 10).
- F The master's work should be our focus. (Luke 19:10)

III The importance of a God-ly focus

- A What is the focus that God wants the church to have?
  - 1 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8,9, NKJV)
  - 2 "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)
    - (a) See also Proverbs 3:5,6
  - 3 God wants our focus to be on the eternal instead of the temporal (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).
- B Notice that God's will was the desire of Christ:
  - 1 "Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." (John 8:28-29, NKJV)

Should the purpose of the church be the same as the purpose of Christ?