

# First Things FIRST

Prioritizing God in Identity, Money, & Mission

DR. BRIAN BENNETT | LEAD PASTOR



SERMON NOTES  
**PATHWAYVB.COM/FYI**

**PATHWAY'S VISION IS: "TO BE THE  
CHURCH: RESTORING, RAISING UP,  
AND REACHING OUT"**

SEPTEMBER 15

# BAPTISM SUNDAY

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PATHWAYVB.COM/ESPAÑOL

# PATHWAY ESPAÑOL



**GIVING GOD YOUR FIRST AND FINEST  
LEADS TO FREEDOM AND ABUNDANT LIFE**

**"10 THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL  
AND DESTROY. I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE  
LIFE AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY."**

**[JOHN 10:10 ESV]**

**"31 SO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THESE THINGS,  
SAYING, 'WHAT WILL WE EAT? WHAT WILL WE  
DRINK? WHAT WILL WE WEAR?'**

**[MATTHEW 6:31-32, NLT]**



**32 THESE THINGS DOMINATE THE THOUGHTS OF  
UNBELIEVERS, BUT YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER  
ALREADY KNOWS ALL YOUR NEEDS."**

**[MATTHEW 6:31-32, NLT]**

**"3 FOR THOUGH WE WALK IN THE  
FLESH, WE ARE NOT WAGING WAR  
ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-4 ESV]**

**4 FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE  
NOT OF THE FLESH BUT HAVE DIVINE POWER  
TO DESTROY STRONGHOLDS."**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-4 ESV]**

**5 BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT  
"YOUR FIRST AND FINEST":**

# **1. GOD IS FIRST.**

**[COLOSSIANS 1:15-17; MATTHEW 6:33 ESV]**

**"15 HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD,  
THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION. 16 FOR  
BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED,**

**[COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 ESV]**

**IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND  
INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES OR  
DOMINIONS OR RULERS OR AUTHORITIES—**

**[COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 ESV]**

**ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND  
FOR HIM. 17 AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS,  
AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.”**

**[COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 ESV]**



**"33 BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD  
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE  
THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU."**

**[MATTHEW 6:33 ESV]**



**\*BLACKBOARD/IPAD\***

**“THE GOOD LIFE IS NOT ABOUT HAVING EVERYTHING  
YOU WANTED; IT’S ABOUT HAVING GOD—EVEN IF IT’S IN  
THE MIDST OF NOTHING YOU WANTED”**

**- MATT SMETHURST**

## **2. GOD LOVES AND GIVES FIRST.**

**[ROMANS 5:8; JOHN 3:16 ESV]**

**"8 BUT GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US IN THAT  
WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED  
FOR US."**

**[ROMANS 5:8 ESV]**

**"16 'FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE  
GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN  
HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.'**

**[JOHN 3:16 ESV]**

**“WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS HAS DONE  
FOR YOU, IT FREES YOU. WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT  
YOU ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS BY HIS GRACE AND NOT  
OUR ACHIEVEMENT,**



**AND THAT YOU ARE LOVED IN JESUS CHRIST, IT CHANGES  
THE WAY YOU LOOK AT POWER, MONEY, AND STATUS;  
THEY DON'T CONTROL YOU ANYMORE"**

**- TIM KELLER**

**3. MONEY REVEALS WHO HAS THE  
"WHEEL" OF OUR HEART**

**[LUKE 16:10-14 ESV]**

**"10 'ONE WHO IS FAITHFUL IN A VERY LITTLE IS  
ALSO FAITHFUL IN MUCH, AND ONE WHO IS  
DISHONEST IN A VERY LITTLE IS ALSO DISHONEST  
IN MUCH.**

**[LUKE 16:10-14 ESV]**

**11 IF THEN YOU HAVE NOT BEEN FAITHFUL  
IN THE UNRIGHTEOUS WEALTH, WHO WILL  
ENTRUST TO YOU THE TRUE RICHES?**

**[LUKE 16:10-14 ESV]**

**12 AND IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN FAITHFUL IN  
THAT WHICH IS ANOTHER'S, WHO WILL GIVE  
YOU THAT WHICH IS YOUR OWN?**

**[LUKE 16:10-14 ESV]**

**13 NO SERVANT CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS, FOR  
EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER,  
OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ONE AND DESPISE  
THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MONEY.'**

**[LUKE 16:10-14 ESV]**

**14 THE PHARISEES, WHO WERE LOVERS  
OF MONEY, HEARD ALL THESE THINGS,  
AND THEY RIDICULED HIM.**

**[LUKE 16:10-14 ESV]**

**4. WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL BY  
GIVING OUR "FIRST AND FINEST"**

**[GENESIS 4:1-4 ESV]**



**"1 NOW ADAM KNEW EVE HIS WIFE, AND SHE CONCEIVED AND BORE CAIN, SAYING, 'I HAVE GOTTEN A MAN WITH THE HELP OF THE LORD.'**

**[GENESIS 4:1-4 ESV]**

**2 AND AGAIN, SHE BORE HIS BROTHER ABEL.  
NOW ABEL WAS A KEEPER OF SHEEP, AND  
CAIN A WORKER OF THE GROUND.**

**[GENESIS 4:1-4 ESV]**

**3 IN THE COURSE OF TIME CAIN BROUGHT  
TO THE LORD AN OFFERING OF THE FRUIT  
OF THE GROUND,**

**[GENESIS 4:1-4 ESV]**

**4 AND ABEL ALSO BROUGHT OF THE FIRSTBORN  
OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THEIR FAT PORTIONS. AND  
THE LORD HAD REGARD FOR ABEL AND HIS  
OFFERING,**

**[GENESIS 4:1-4 ESV]**

**5. GIVING GOD YOUR FIRST AND FINEST  
LEADS TO FREEDOM AND ABUNDANT LIFE.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**6 "FOR I THE LORD DO NOT CHANGE;  
THEREFORE YOU, O CHILDREN OF  
JACOB, ARE NOT CONSUMED.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**7 FROM THE DAYS OF YOUR FATHERS  
YOU HAVE TURNED ASIDE FROM MY  
STATUTES AND HAVE NOT KEPT THEM.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**RETURN TO ME, AND I WILL RETURN TO  
YOU, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS. BUT  
YOU SAY, 'HOW SHALL WE RETURN?'**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**



**8 WILL MAN ROB GOD? YET YOU ARE  
ROBBING ME. BUT YOU SAY, 'HOW HAVE  
WE ROBBED YOU?' IN YOUR TITHES AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**9 YOU ARE CURSED WITH A CURSE, FOR  
YOU ARE ROBBING ME, THE WHOLE  
NATION OF YOU.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**10 BRING THE FULL TITHE INTO THE  
STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE FOOD IN MY  
HOUSE. AND THEREBY PUT ME TO THE TEST,  
SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS,**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**IF I WILL NOT OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN  
FOR YOU AND POUR DOWN FOR YOU A  
BLESSING UNTIL THERE IS NO MORE NEED.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**11 I WILL REBUKE THE DEVOURER FOR YOU,  
SO THAT IT WILL NOT DESTROY THE FRUITS  
OF YOUR SOIL, AND YOUR VINE IN THE FIELD  
SHALL NOT FAIL TO BEAR, SAYS THE LORD  
OF HOSTS.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**12 THEN ALL NATIONS WILL CALL YOU  
BLESSED, FOR YOU WILL BE A LAND OF  
DELIGHT, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS.**

**[MALACHI 3:6-12 ESV]**

**PLEASE SEND "FIRST THINGS FIRST" QUESTIONS TO:**  
***HELLO@PATHWAYVB.COM***

pathwayvb.com/faith

# Step OUT IN FAITH

90-DAY GIVING CHALLENGE





## First-Time Giver

- I accept the challenge to give for the first time.
- I accept the challenge to give for the first time and set up recurring giving.

### First-Time Giver

- I accept the challenge to give for the first time.
- I accept the challenge to give for the first time and set up recurring giving.

### Regular Giver

- I accept the challenge and would like to become a regular tither.
- I am a regular tither and accept the challenge to set up recurring giving.

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### Regular Giver

- I accept the challenge and would like to become a regular tither.
- I am a regular tither and accept the challenge to set up recurring giving.

### Strategic Giving

- I accept the challenge to give towards the year-end gift: "Heart for the Home" (above & beyond).
- Contact me/us for planned giving (estate, stocks, tax-advantaged charitable distribution).

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- I accept the challenge to set up my Ramsey Plus membership.

# **NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:**

**1. HAVE YOU RECEIVED JESUS AS GOD'S FIRST AND FINEST FOR YOU?**

# **NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:**

**2. ARE YOU EXPERIENCING FREEDOM AND ABUNDANT LIFE BY GIVING YOUR FIRST AND FINEST TO GOD?**

# **NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:**

**3. WILL YOU STEP OUT IN FAITH AND TAKE THE 90-DAY GIVING CHALLENGE? [WWW.PATHWAYVB.COM/FAITH](http://WWW.PATHWAYVB.COM/FAITH)**

# NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:





NEW SERIES COMING SOON | **SEPTEMBER 1 - 29**

# *First Things* **First**

**Prioritizing God in Identity, Money, & Mission**



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