“FIRST OF ALL”
I Cor. 15: 1 – 4
Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. In this text, Paul is discussing the gospel and the fact of the gospel.
2. In verse three he uses the term, “first of all”.
3. This term means “among the first things”; “first in importance”.
4. We can see from our text that there are some things that must be “among the first things” because they are “first in importance”.
5. Let us study some “first things”.

I. FIRST, ONE MUST GIVE HIMSELF TO THE LORD
   a. The Christians at Macedonia did – 2 Cor. 8:5.
   b. The man, or woman, who first gives themselves to the Lord has no trouble giving time, service or money.
   c. One who has given himself to the Lord can deny himself whatever must be denied – Luke 9:23.

II. FIRST THERE MUST BE A WILLING MIND
   a. 2 Cor. 8:12
   b. Intention and willingness to give is very important in God’s sight.
   c. God wants no service that is given grudgingly or of necessity – I Cor. 9:7.
   d. God has always required a willing mind:
      i. Ex. 35:5
      ii. I Chron 28:9

III. CLEANSE FIRST THE INSIDE
   a. Matt. 23:26
   c. I Sam. 16:7 – Man looks on the outward appearance, “but the Lord looketh on the heart”.
   d. Prov. 4: 23 – “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
   e. Mk. 7: 20 – 23

IV. “LEARN FIRST TO SHOW PIETY AT HOME”
   a. I Tim. 5:4
   b. When one takes care of his parents and family, this is good and acceptable before God.
   c. I Tim. 5:16
   d. I Tim. 5:8
   e. This is the way one honors his father and mother – Eph. 6:2; Matt. 15: 4 – 6.

V. FIRST CAST OUT THE BEAM OUT OF THINE OWN EYE
a. Matt. 7:5
b. A Beam is large and a Mote is small.

VI. FIRST BE RECONCILED TO THY BROTHER
a. Matt. 5: 23 – 24
b. God will not accept our worship when we are at odds with our brother – I Pet. 3:7.

VII. FIRST COMMANDMENT – LOVE GOD
b. The test of love – John 14:15

VIII. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK
a. We are to Give – I Cor. 16:1 – 2
b. We are to eat the Lord’s Supper – Acts 20: 7.

IX. SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD
a. Matt. 6:33
b. One of the greatest needs of the church is to put the Kingdom and God’s righteousness first.
c. How do you put it first?
   i. First in love – I Cor. 10: 31 – 33
   ii. First in work – I Cor. 15:58
   iii. First in attendance – Heb. 10:25

CONCLUSION
If we expect to please God, we must “put first things first”.

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