

# A Re-Centering on God

---



## Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Ephesians 1:1-2



## Big Idea

God is the primary actor in our lives. His purpose for us is conformity to his image, and he works in and for us, to this end, no matter where we are at, if we are willing to accept him.

## God as the Primary Actor

What I am hoping you see in this text is the deliberate action of God, not only in Paul's life, but in all of humanity, including your life. I want you to see the deliberate foreplanning and foreknowledge of God about you and what he wants to do in your life, spanning from eternity past to eternity future. God is the primary actor in your life. He is actively at work to bring you to himself, if you will have him, and conform you to his image

## Implications

### You mean much to God

When you come to truly realize, and know that God has had you in mind from eternity past, and he is at work to secure you, now and into eternity future, it has a strangely calming, loving and deeply joyful effect on your soul

### Christ: Savior & Lord

In light of all that God has done - his deliberate willing and acting to draw you to himself (if you will have him), and to conform you to his image, the question is: are you at place to allow Christ to be both Savior and Lord of your life?

While it is true that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone, it is also true that if we are saved, our lives, overtime, begins to take on the nature of Christ - and this happens through submitting to him as Savior and Lord

### The Pillow of His Sovereignty

- You are never alone, God is the primary actor in your life
- Borrow strength from the community of believers around you
- Borrow perspective from those who have walked this journey of life before us

In summary, when faced with struggles and challenges, we must learn to rest our head on the pillow of God's Sovereignty. Said another way, we learn to rest our heads on His greatness (his power and might) and his goodness (his love for you)



## Homework

- Take out at least 30 minutes every day of this coming week, and be in solitude and silence. By this I mean, sit down somewhere comfortable or take a walk in the park, and lay aside the usual things that you do and interact with (including your phone), and simply rest
- Resting might mean taking a thought like the ones below and just feast on it, letting it bring joy to your heart
  - The unending and unchanging love of God for you
  - The provision and power of God for you
  - The forgiveness of sins; really the miracle of miracles
  - The fact that God is with us in all we face
  - Your adoption into the family of God
  - Jesus & the Holy Spirit interceding for you - Heb 7:25 and Rom 8:26
- Write what comes to mind in a journal and pray as God leads you