

# VISION 2023: Returning to the Essentials

1 THESS 1:2-3

Dr. Matt Shackelford

■ Central Church

■ January 8, 2023

■ Social Media: #Vision 2023

## ***Winning is Returning to the Essentials***

## **1 Thess 1:2-3**

*“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
(ESV)*

1. Aggressively Grow a **Faith** that **Functions** (3a).

2. Strategically Give a **Love** that **Labors** (3b).

3. Consistently Gather a **Hope** that **Hangs-On** (3c).

## VISION 2023: Returning to the Essentials

1 THESS 1:2-3

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How will you return to the essentials of growing your faith in 2023? Which new or existing initiative can you use to grow your faith (Regular Sunday Church, Shepherd Group, Men's Breakfast, Equip class, Parenting Conference, Central Bible Institute, etc.)?
2. This passage reminds us that a loving church is a church that labors. What ministry can you point to as your "labor of love?" Where would you like to start laboring at Central this year?
3. **Read Hebrews 10:25.** One of the reasons we see gathering as a primary emphasis at Central is the clear commands of scripture to do so. We're told not to "neglect" our assembling "as is the habit of some." Our gatherings matter because they produce hope and provide encouragement. How will you protect your Sunday gathering? Where will you gather with other believers beyond the Sunday service? Check out the ministries page on our website for more opportunities to practice gathering: [www.centralchurch.com/ministries](http://www.centralchurch.com/ministries)

### Quote for the Week. . .

by Gene Getz

*"Without the message of the Scriptures we would have nothing with which to encourage one another. We would have no purpose for meeting together. Our knowledge of God would be so limited we would have no rational object for our faith, no doctrine on which to build our hope, and no way of even knowing the meaning of genuine love."*

**Gene Getz, Encouraging One Another, Cook Communication Ministries, 1985, p. 17-18.**

