

## Working the Vision Pt.3

January 19, 2014 AM

### THE VISION:

***To be fully prepared and ready to stand before God, either by death or by His appearing, to receive His final declaration of our eternal verdict.***

***To encourage our brothers and sisters to continue in the faith grounded and settled until the day we stand before Jesus to receive our eternal verdict; to not be moved away from the Truth of God's Word by Satan, sin or this world system; to not lose one soul that Father gives us to minister to.***

#### **2 Corinthians 5:9–11**

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

#### **Hebrews 10:24–27** ESV

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

### **1. ALL MINISTRY IS BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE WORD OF GOD. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE, POWER AND GUIDANCE IN MINISTRY.**

- *No vision will stand unless it is the vision of God's Word.*
- *We consistently teach and live the Word of God, regardless of the apparent results: in season (growth), out of season (no growth), acceptance or rejection. (2 Timothy 4:1-4)*
- *We never resort to human or worldly methods, gimmicks, fads or compromise. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)*
- *We strive to find the balance of Truth, never exaggerating nor neglecting certain principles to the distortion of the Truth. (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)*

#### **2 Timothy 4:2**

"Preach the word; be instant (stand by, be present) in season, out of season..."

#### **1 Corinthians 2:2,4**

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

### **1 Corinthians 2:13**

"...not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing (to compare and combine, explain) spiritual things with spiritual."

## **2. ALL MINISTRY IS RELATIONSHIP, FIRST WITH GOD AND THEN HIS PEOPLE.**

- *Relationship is the exchange of life and care.*
- *Programs, activities, curriculum, organized outreaches, are not ministry, though they can facilitate ministry by providing avenues of relationship. We exist for ministry by relationship; we do not exist for programs and activities.*
- *Relationships produce vulnerability, enabling each member to become positioned for change. The true nature and condition of the soul is exposed and can then be cleansed and healed.*
- *We strive to relate and function to one another in fluid unity as the eye relates to the hand, or the arm relates to the leg. There is no competition, jealousy, division in the Body of Christ.*
- *Paul warns against two different attitudes:*
  - *Thinking we have nothing to give, "Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body."*
  - *Thinking we can live and grow without the other members of the Body, "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee."*

### **Ephesians 4:16**

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together (closely joined, hinged together to effect function) and compacted (combine, stride together) by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

### **Colossians 2:19**

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

## **3. MINISTRY REQUIRES SUBMISSION TO THE LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION OF THE ASSEMBLY.**

### **Hebrews 13:17**

"Obey (peitho - root of pistos "faith" - to persuade, to be persuaded, have confidence, convinced) them that have the rule (lead the way, go before) over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

### **Hebrews 13:17 ESV**

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

- Obeying the leaders has nothing to do with the pastor's ego or personal preferences. A true shepherd makes decisions based upon what is best for the assembly, not what brings him comfort and ease. The members must trust the pastor, and trust is earned.
- Obeying the leaders is not a dictatorship. There can be no spiritual growth in the confusion and distraction of disharmony. Obeying the leadership is all about *"keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*
- Obeying the leaders must never usurp Jesus' lordship in the life and heart of any member.

**Philippians 2:12–13**

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**Hebrews 8:10–11**

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

**Colossians 2:16–19 ESV**

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,

19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

**Acts 4:33–35**

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

**Acts 5:1-6**

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:6–15**

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.

9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.

10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

- **Diversity, creativity and initiative are precious assets that must be sought and encouraged, but never at the expense of distraction or disunity.**
- **The pastor must be given to the Word of God and prayer. God will raise up other leaders, under the pastoral oversight, to initiate and facilitate subsequent ministries.**
- **New ministries are started in two ways:**
  1. **Need**
  2. **Divine Direction**

## **1 Corinthians 1:10–13**

10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.