

Working the Vision Pt.2

January 12, 2014 PM

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 reception or rejection by Him.

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.

1. All ministry, both visionary and practical, both relational and logistical, is based exclusively on the Word of God, regardless of the apparent results. We never resort to human or worldly methods. In all things, we try to present and live the Biblical balance of truth.

There is a place in the life cycle of a church where decisions must be made:

- a. *Will worship be true worship in spirit and truth, or will it become a production of religious entertainment?*
- b. *Will the teaching of God's Word be illumination of Truth by the Holy Spirit, or will it become a humanistic motivational pep rally?*
- c. *Will programs and events replace relationships, where statistical results are valued above heart transformation?*
- d. *Will monetary income and attendance metrics be pursued more than souls?*

Jeremiah 6:13–16

13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

14 They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

2. All ministry is expressed and experienced in one word - relationship. Relationship first with God and relationship also with 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.

Ministries that focus on programs, activities and entertainment produce a form of consumer Christianity where congregants come to take instead of give, be served instead of serve, be entertained instead of worship, all behind the walls and barriers of self-erected image and hypocrisy. They can come and go without ever being personally challenged or changed. A church service is more of a production than corporate worship.

Ministries that focus on relationship produce a genuine Christianity where congregants must come out from behind the self-erected walls to communicate from the heart and to give beyond themselves and beyond their comfort zone. Relationships produce exposure and change, enabling the congregant to become vulnerable and positioned for change. The true nature and condition of the soul is exposed and can then be cleansed and healed.

Ephesians 4:15–16

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

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.

- *Fluid unity in heart, purpose and function.*
- *Different in gifts, perspective and method.*

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

- *There is something for every member to do.*
- *In the Spirit of God, no task is insignificant.*

- *Never judge as man, by the outward. Judge by the Spirit of God.*

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Romans 12:1–8

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Matthew 20:1–16

1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And

they went their way.

5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,

12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.