

## Working the Vision

January 12, 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 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.

#### **Colossians 1:21–29**

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

#### **John 17:12**

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

**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.**

### **1 Timothy 3:15**

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

### **2 Timothy 4:1-4**

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant (stand by, be present) in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

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

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

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:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

### **1 Corinthians 2:12-13**

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, 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.

### **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.

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?

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.