

Fact Sheet for “Vision”

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This is one of the very few topical sermons you will ever hear from me. It is a sermon that cannot be preached from any one passage. It is a sermon on vision. How has God arranged life? What should each of us be doing for Christ? How can our local church help? What's up ahead in the near future?

How has God arranged life?

Let's begin with a sandwich. If you want to get a feeling for God's heart look at what begins the Bible, what ends the Bible, and what is in between.

(Genesis 1:31; 3:6)

After cursing the serpent look at God's words to Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:16-19). There were now three ways sin stained people... sin nature (inherited), death (legal), and personal sin. This is the first slice of Bible bread in our sandwich.

How will it end? Everyone will end one of two ways (Revelation 20:11-15 or Revelation 21:1-4).

This is the top slice of bread in our Bible sandwich. What's in the middle (John 3:16)? Everything we have, everything we are about, everything we value needs to be seen in the light of this Bible sandwich.

For several months we've been looking at the life of Paul in the book of Acts. This is how he thought.

What should each of us be doing for Christ?

Matthew 22:35-40

There is a word that is used frequently in the NT... “disciple” (μαθητής – ma-thei-teis' *learner, pupil, disciple*)

Matthew 10:24-25a

This not only includes our personal spiritual development but also our witness.

Matthew 28:18-20

This is not just something that is the sole responsibility of the local church, it is the responsibility of each of us.

Use your creativity!

Not all of your ideas will be adopted by the church

Use your spiritual gift or gift mix!

How can our local church help?

In our society local churches have both a spiritual commission and a corporate presence.

We are a non-profit corporation.

We have a building and vehicles.

We have to be fiscally responsible.

We need to be wise about the laws that we live under.

But we have a spiritual commission. Everything we do as a corporate body must take the back seat to this commission (making disciples through evangelism and teaching).

Ephesians 4:11-16

In this vein we will be putting our declaration of faith, with its supporting references, up on our website this week. In this vein we preach the gospel. In this vein we hosted the CEF day camp this week, where five children accepted Christ as their Savior. In this vein we are always looking for ways to train the next generation of church leaders. And it is consistent in this vein to have a long-term goal of planting another church.

What's up ahead in the near future?

We have had a life group going for two years now. It's enjoyable.

We would like to see a second group started this fall.

I'm doing some thinking about being a friendly church vs. being a church where you can find friends.

You've got a great group of young people here. Some have found their niche for ministry. They are becoming trained and active. We're looking for creative ideas to help them.

We've got folks with very definite ministry abilities. We're looking for ways to help them develop.

We need to find a place for the CEF busses.

Pray!