

Transform the World: Church

Today, we begin a series focused on the mission and vision of the church: Titled: Transform The World: It's about redefining and refocusing on the mission and vision of the church...

Not just the church in general, but OUR Church... Who are we...What do we exist to do

Whenever you say the word church, people have all different kinds of images come to mind. Some people immediately think of a building...and they equate the church...with a building. I remember standing in Cuba one day beside a young architect. He was so excited...According to him first legally constructed building for a church since the Communist revolution in the 50's

- Hurricane: Destroyed RTBC raised funds Putting up roof

A young man, very excited...Not a Believer. Asked him, do you know this building is for. Amazed me: He said, *"The building is not the church! The people are the church...the church meets in the building...building is just a tool to help the church successfully accomplish it's mission!"* He GOT it!

In this series we are going to talk about the mission and vision of RTBC. Think with me this way:
Church Real People Real Faith Real Community Transform For Christ
5 Parts: In Statement and in the Series

1. First, Today: What Is Church?

Images of Church In NT.

- Some count over 100! Each one gives us a little different insight into who we are, what we do
 - ~Body: Different parts ~Bride: Special precious relationship of love
 - ~Temple: Worship of God ~Family: Relationships
 - ~Flock: Shepherd/Care ~Lampstand: Provide spiritual light
- All different kinds of images, all are important. To get accurate picture put them all together
- Image of an ARMY: For purpose of this series:
- Mission: Turn irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Jesus.
Pagans....into Missionaries: Don't know or believe in Jesus...Not only reach them, Train to reach
- Key: In my opinion, all of the OTHER images are important...But, this is the most important
Everything else works off of this...the church exists to find people far from God, help them to Him

Appl: *"We are least effective at the most important thing we are called to do."*

We do all kinds of wonderful things...with all different levels of effectiveness. BUT, IN USA AND HERE I don't say that to run us down...denigrate us, or make us feel bad...but to FOCUS us on our mission If you measure success as finding people that don't know Jesus, leading them to Him, training them...

For the past couple of months I have been under the growing conviction that we need to stop waiting for the pandemic to end...and refocus on God has called us to do...reach people for Jesus Christ. For That:

1. Focus On Our Mission: Mt 28:10-20

The mission of the church is to proactively seek out people that do not know Jesus, lead them to saving faith in Him and teach them to live for Him. And, as I said earlier, least effective at most important work

- People are LOST John 3:18 *"Does not believe is condemned already"*
Clear teaching of the bible...we are separated from God because of our sin...ONLY JESUS
No other remedy: Not education, Not business, Not Finances, Not health (Smooth way to hell!)
- Command of Jesus: Go...Not wait for them to come!
The church needs to go on the offence! We have the ball...4 Corners
Lost Son, Lost Coin, Lost Sheep
- Nothing more important: It is the heart of God for us to bring people to Him (5 Points Baptist)
- It is the express will of God 2 Peter 3:9 *"God not willing ANY should perish"*

For the church to be the church...we need to be engaged in fulfilling the mission God entrusted to us

2. Fight The Right Battle:

2 Cor 10:3-5

I want to suggest to you today that many Christians today are fighting the WRONG battle!

- ~**Cultural:** Go back to the “good old days” Mayberry,
 ~**Sin:** Pick a sin of choice and go on a crusade
 ~**Values:** Christian Values Make our world like us: Don’t be surprised when non-Christians
 ~**Patriotic:** American Way
 ~**Racial:** Issue: Black, White, Brown (NOT SKIN ISSUE...IT is a SIN issue)
 ~**Political:** Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Undecided

**Listen...those may have a greater or lesser degree of importance, but they are not mission of Church
Finding Souls of those don't know Jesus, and helping them find their way to HIM...Our Mission
Give me passion for THAT**

**Give me the same passion for lost souls that you have for culture, or values, flag, racial reconciliation,
Let me see your broken heart for lost people dying and on their way to hell..**

- ~Facebook post for that
- ~Meme for that
- ~Frustration at the lack of people coming to Jesus as lack of people voting

We need to develop a passion for lost people that is greater than anything else!

- **Spiritual Battle:** Not a battle of the flesh, color, race: Battle with Sin!
- **Spiritual Weapons:** Divine power: We need the spirit of God
 - ~Awaken our hearts (We sing the song...set a fire down in my soul)
 - ~Empower our words (Need spirit to do for us what did Stephen)
 - ~bring conviction (God has done that in past) Finney/Moody
 - ~Bind Satan (He is the God of this world...Can't stand Mt 16)
 - ~Open the eyes of the blind (We will not argue them to Jesus...Spirit)
- **Spiritual Outcome:** People that are far from God brought near, Lost people saved! Rescued Eph 2:12-17 *Once you were far off...now brought near!*

What the church of Jesus Christ needs to be focused on is changing the eternal destiny of those w/o Jesus

3. Follow The Right Pattern:

Eph 6:10-20

This is one of the greatest passages in the NT on what it means to be a part of the army of God.

There are two essential pieces I want you to pay attention to in these verses.

We will develop them more later, but today I want you to notice two parts of the pattern.

- **Defensive Equipment:** There are items that serve to protect us
Helmet, Breastplate, Shield
- **Offensive Equipment:** Only 2! Sword of Spirit: Word of God
Prayer: Asking God to fight our battles!

Psalm 20 Some trust in chariots, some trust in horses...We trust in the name of the Lord!

IF we are going to be successful in accomplishing our mission...God has to show up! We can't do it!

Acts 16:6: Paul and Silas: “The men who have turned the world upside down have come here!”

CONCL: We are called to turn our world upside down.

Right now...with the economic, racial, political, divides...we have the answer people need...Jesus

No amount of education, no amount of training, no amount of protest going to change hearts...Jesus

Challenge you to do 3 things with me as we start this series.

1. **Volunteer for the Army: Sign up for the mission**
2. **Focus on the Right Battle: It is a battle for the souls of the people don't know Jesus**
3. **We need to prepare ourselves defensively...and then go on the attack...Word...and**