

“HOW TO HELP MAKE YOUR CHURCH’S VISION A REALITY”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Message #13 April 23, 1995

Introduction

Every 5 years a church should ask & answer these questions.

1. What kind of people does this church want to deploy into the world?
2. What kind of church makes possible that kind of person?
3. What kind of leadership team makes possible that kind of church?
4. What kind of pastor makes possible that kind of leadership team?

Several verses of Scripture speak directly to these questions.

Matthew 4:19

Mark 3:6,13,14

John 17:4,6

John 4:34,35

Luke 10:1,2

Matthew 28:18-20

Colossians 1:28-29

1 Thessalonians 2:7,8

2 Timothy 2:2

Message Take responsibility! Help make your church’s vision a reality!
YBH – Yes, but how?

A. Encourage the leadership team! 5:12-13

1. Appreciate them (12)!
hard work
leadership
teaching
2. Esteem them (13a)!
3. Live in peace with them & everyone else (13b)!

B. Share the ministry with the team! 5:14-15

1. Admonish the unruly (14a)!
2. Encourage the fainthearted (14b)!
3. Help the weak (14c)!
4. Be patient with all (14d)!
5. Help change bad attitudes (15)!

C. Saturate the ministry with prayer! 5:16-18

1. Rejoice always (16)!
2. Pray without ceasing (17)!
3. In everything give thanks (18)!

D. Obey the Word of God! 5:19-22

1. Remember that disobedience strips you of spiritual passion & power (19)!
2. Listen to anyone in the fellowship who is teaching God's Word – young or old, immature or mature (20)!
3. If the teaching promotes godly living – obey it (21)!
4. If the teaching promotes ungodly living – reject it (22)!

E. Conclusion – Paul's benediction 5:23-28

God gave me a verse this week, and I'm going to hang my heart on it for the duration. It's from Proverbs twenty-four, verse twenty-seven. Here's what it says in the New King James. It says this: "Prepare your outside work. Make it fit for yourself in the field. and afterward build your house." And as I thought about that, that's exactly the way God wants us to build this new church. Take care of business on the outside. Do the prep work that we have to do to reach new people for Jesus and win them to Christ. Take care of that out there, and then build the house. I believe it will be in that order that God will bless us. If you didn't pick anything up from those three sessions in Acts, I hope you get this: When the church gets busy doing what God wants it to do, which is to be a vital outreach to its community and to its world, God will take care of all the growth business that they need. Amen? And I really believe that the priority God is giving us is to reach our community for Jesus Christ, and the other things will take care of themselves. The book of Second Corinthians shows us how to become a healing communion. The Church should be a dynamic outreach. It should be a warm fellowship. But it needs to be a healing communion -- a place where broken people can get the grace of God into their lives and be restored to usefulness to the Lord's purposes.

--"Becoming a Healing Communion," 1997, sermon excerpt