

## Declaring the word / view from the summit - II

**In your view - What is the church suppose to be? ... and be about?**

*I really want you to be honest with yourself. What do you think the church is suppose to be ... and be about?*

People who go to church were surveyed across the country and across many different types of churches.

According to Ed Stetzer – Exec Dir. Of Lifeway Research:

- 1) **24% - just aren't sure.** All sorts of reasons why – but they just aren't sure.
- 2) **66% - believe the church is primarily a place, and it exists to meet the needs of the members.**
- 3) **10% - believe the church is the body of Christ – that exists for God's purposes.**

*At the Summit we have taught from day 1: the church is the body of Christ that exist for God's purposes in this world. I want to ask the question again – and ask you – which group best fits the actions of your life. Not which category do you think is true? I am asking this according to your day-to-day actions – which group lines up with your life?*

**This series – “A View from the Summit”** is a vital moment in our life as a church. Why?

*I believe this is one of those moments in history that has vital implications for generations to come. Our world and our country are in great turmoil and confusion. And this is one of those moments when the church has the opportunity to define history by the person & work of Jesus ... or history will define Jesus. I want to be a part of the church of Jesus Christ that defines history – that brings real hope and change to bear through the person and work of Jesus. The church is not a place or an entity that exists to primarily meet my needs or our needs. If we live this way – if you live out this belief – you and I will see history define Jesus in our generation. And that definition will not be good or right. **But I believe God is greater - as is his church.** For we are His living body and Jesus is the head. And, we exist for His grand redemption plan that is greater and more powerful than the chaos and confusion we live in today.*

This is a vital moment in our life as a church. In this series, **“A View from the Summit” We want to:**

- Invite you to see the beauty and power of God in his church and join Jesus in his grand redemption plan. *If you are not a member who has partnered or covenanted with us - join us. Don't be a spectator or outsider. Join us in living in the goodness of God in Christ and bringing the goodness of God in Christ into our broken world – as we serve, love, give, and speak the hope and love of Jesus.*
- Remind all of us who are a part of God's church and this church family, who we are and what we have committed to be about. *Members – Let's step into this life in Christ together. Let's allow the person and work of Jesus to change us and move us into life together for His fame, our communities benefit, and our good.*

Each week we are unpacking one of our 5 Values. **5 Values Logos** These Values help us define and live out our mission with clarity and focus. Our value today: **Declaring the Word (logo)**. I believe the **devaluing of this charge to the church** is one of the reasons that more and more – Jesus is being defined by the history of this day and less and less - Jesus is defining history. We believe:

**When the Word is declared - we are transformed by the gospel.**

*That is-when we declare the Word: our brokenness is engaged and changed by the goodness of God in Christ. The only hope for racial reconciliation and real peace in our community and country – is the gospel of Jesus that is declared all through God's Word – for it alone can changes men and women's hearts. The only hope for the fear, confusion, and hate in our world – is Jesus and His gospel. He alone can transform killers into peacemakers, gang members into servants, warlords into pastors, and the selfish and afraid into caring and giving members of our community. **When the word is declared – people are changed, we are transformed by the gospel.***

01. What does it mean to “Declare the Word”?

“Declaring the Word” is explaining and applying the very words of God so lives are transformed through the power of the gospel and the Holy Spirit of God. *(preaching and teaching – big and small groups)*

02. How do we “Declare the Word” here at The Summit? *(Specifically. how do we facilitate “declaring ...”*

*(everyone) Sunday Worship, Steps, Summit University Classes, (children and students) Engage Student Ministry, Summit Kids, (preaching training) Preaching Cohort, Summit Pastoral Residency*  
*Photos of men who have preached and why? Teaching Hospital vs Non-Teaching Hospitals*

### 03. Why do we “declare the Word”?

II Timothy 4:1 (ESV) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

- **We** (as the church of the Living God) **are charged by God.** (“In the presence of God and Jesus Christ” – who came and will come again to judge all. This phrase means God who reigns over all men - is declaring this charge through Paul to Timothy.) Since we are his disciples – followers of Jesus Christ – we seek to obey!

II Timothy 4:2 (ESV) preach the word;

- **We believe the Word is ...**

- **God breathed, that it comes from God not men.**

II Timothy 3:16 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God

- **All about Jesus and His work – which is the gospel.**

Luke 24:27, 44-47 (ESV) 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 44 “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations,

- **The living words of God that expose and transform us.** (This isn’t history. This is God’s active voice that is just as relevant and powerful now in our lives as it was when it was spoken.)

II Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

II Timothy 4:2 (ESV) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- **We are charged to preach and teach so the gospel can transform lives.**

- **Preach - to declare the word to call all people to repent and believe in the gospel.**

- **Teach - to declare the word to equip God’s people to live in and for the gospel.**

\* **Reprove – to show sin and the death of its way, to show the beauty of Jesus and the life of His way / So we will turn from our sin and turn to Jesus.**

**Most people never change and are never transformed because they never repent – they are just sorry.** Sorry they got caught, sorry they are so messed up, sorry.

**Without repentance and belief in Jesus – we cannot know and be with God. We will never know the removal of shame and guilt and never change.**

**Have you place your soul in the hands of God.**

**Any reprimand from Jesus that urges us to flee from sin is also an invitation to flee to a blood-bought Table of grace. Scott Sauls**

**Like Brian said last week, the Word says in Col 2:6,** as we came to Christ continue.

*We are to live in repentance and faith and the WORD puts the beauty of Christ in focus and the ugliness of our sin in clear view. Outside the word – we believe lies and walk toward death.*

\* **Rebuke - plead to stop our death walk.**

\* **Encourage - inspire, equip, and come alongside to pour courage into us to walk in the gospel. Repent and believe - "walk in this."**

\* **Patience – with love and grace waiting on God to bring change.** *We are called to remember that the Spirit alone does the work of God in people. So be patient and steadfast – God is at work. Don't give up and don't get anxious or mad. God is at work.*

II Timothy 4:1-4 (ESV) **1** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; ... **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

- **We are charged to declare the Word with a sense of urgency.**

*Let's apply this whole passage and value for us all today.*

- **Time is of the essence for our world.** – **Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead** *He's coming!*

\* App. – **We will continue to preach and teach the gospel.** that declares the death and destruction in our sin and rebellion and calls people to the beauty and power of Jesus.

- **Always be preparing as a pastor/teacher and preparing new pastor teachers.** **"Be ready in..."**

\* App. - **We will continue to equip teachers and pastors to declare the Word.**

*Are you called to teach children, youth, adults? Is there something in you as a part of the body of Christ that wants to help people be equipped to walk in repentance and belief in the gospel? If so – let us know and we can help train you.*

*Are you called to preach? Know someone who is? We will continue to train pastor/elders and church planters to preach and teach the word of God.*

- **Time is of the essence in our community, our country, and our world.** **"For the time is coming"**

\* *Many are listening to someone that offers hope but that hope has nothing to do with the words of God.*

\* *Even when people are listening to preachers, the most listened to and read pastors – declare a gospel that says our faith, our works, our actions – God gives healing, change, and transformation. These are a lie.*

**Toy Sword - The WORD is a sword that is powerful to expose us, change us God says in Heb 4:12.**

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) **For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. But when we do not preach the gospel that is the whole purpose and story of the Word, we make the sword of God a toy that is impotent. It cannot change and does not change the heart.**

**Here is a strong, yet heart-felt rebuke** from one who loves you – if you are listening to reading from these men or women – stop. They are not declaring the true gospel to you from God's word.

**Broad Sword - Listen to the True word, the true Gospel – it is powerful to expose, change, and heal.**

\* App. - **We all need to hear the WORD of God that declares the gospel – for we are all broken and we all need to be transformed – changed!**

Are you regularly hearing the Word declared and living in relationship with a body of Christ that can help you walk in repentance and belief in the gospel.

- **If not join us – Pastor's Coffee and Membership Class are coming soon. Look in your bulletin or ask at welcome desk.**

- **Sign up for a Community Group today in the lobby so you can join others in walking in repentance and belief as we engage the Word and the gospel. Even if you have been in one and will stay in the same one, sign up today. It helps leaders see the size of the group and it gives you some accountability.**

*I truly believe this is one of those moments in history that has vital implications for generations to come. The church of Jesus Christ has the opportunity to define history by the person and work of Jesus or history will define Jesus. I want to be a part of the church of Jesus Christ that defines history – that brings real hope and change to bear through the person and work of Jesus.*

**Let's join together and continue to declare and listen to Word – that transforms us through the gospel.**