

The State of the Church

2024

The State of the Church

1. The Epic Story
2. The Gospel
3. You and the Church
4. Our Missions and Vision

1. The Epic Story of Humanity

Things are not what they seem

We are at war

You have a role to play

2. The Gospel

Revelation - Who He is / what He did

Response - What we do

Result - What we get

What is the Gospel?

The gospel means the good news...
of Jesus...

Who He is....

What He has done...

What that means for us...

Our response...

Why it matters...

2022 - 6% Americans hold a biblical world view

2023 = 4%

arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CRC_AWVI2023_Release1.pdf

Gospel Ditches

Justification Gospel

= He loves you you're saved!

Social Gospel

= Do good, love people, and be kind!

Acts 2:16-47

3 Parts to the whole Gospel

1. Revelation - Who He is / what He did
2. Response - What we do
3. Result - What we get

Revelation - What God did, who He is...

Revelation:

1. **Acts 2:22, 36** = **Son of God,**
Emmanuel, Lord, Messiah
2. **Acts 2:23, 36** = **Died/Crucified,**
(Gen 3:15; Psalm 2, 22; Isaiah 52, 53;
Dan 2)

Revelation:

3. **Acts 2:24 -32** = Raised / Resurrected

(Romans 6)

4. **Acts 2:33-35** = Jesus is Exalted /

Glorified – (Psalm 110; Ephesians

1:20-2:9)

5. **Acts 2:33** = Poured out the Spirit

Revelation:

1. Son of God, Lord, Messiah
2. Died/Crucified
3. Raised / Resurrected
4. Exalted / Glorified
5. Poured out the Spirit

Response - What should we do?

Response

1. **Acts 2:26, 37** = **Convicted** / cut to the heart -awareness that I have a problem - Psalm 16
2. **Acts 2:37** = **Confession** - Rom 10:9-10

Response

3. **Acts 2:38** = Repent - Return to God/
change of allegiance/mind/heart see
Acts 26:18 – from darkness to light.
4. **Acts 2:38** = Baptized
5. **Acts 2:38** - Received /Believe/ Trust
6. **Acts 2:42-45** - Devoted to a church

Response:

1. Convicted
2. Confession
3. Repent
4. Baptized
5. Believe
6. Devoted to a church

Result - What we get... i.e. Heaven

Result

1. **Acts 2:38** = forgiveness of sins. –
Justification
2. **Acts 2:38** = New everlasting life / Gift
of the Spirit/ Resurrection (1 Cor 15)
3. **Acts 2:42-45** = Get to be part of a
church

Result

4. **Acts 2:45** = New mission/ hope/
love/ Identity (Acts 1:8; Matt 28:29;
Gal 5:22)

Result:

1. Forgiven
2. New Life / Holy Spirit
3. Family of Faith
4. New Mission

(Respond and Result)

The “What Now” or “How” Questions:

How do I live as a Christian?

How do I grow into Christlikeness?

3. Disciples and the Church

Individuals and Institutions with a Goal

Running start into **Acts 2:42**..

The Gospel must be **first (1 Cor.2:2)**

central (1 Cor.15:3-4)

in **everything** we do (**Col.2:6**),

because it is essential in **Identity**,

understanding worth and purpose in

who we are (**Col.1:16**)

Disciples-

Come together in community...

Eph. 4:11-16

Discipleship is “the greatest opportunity individual human beings have in life and the only hope corporate mankind has of solving its insurmountable problems” - Willard

Church =

ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia) = Called Out Ones

- a gathering of people called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly. (See **Mat 16:18**, **1st Cor 1:2**, etc.)

ἐπισυναγωγή (episynagōgē) = Assembly

- a Christian meeting (for worship), a gathering together in one place, to come to the side of. (**Heb 10:25**)

Churching in Acts 2 (2:42)

Continued Steadfastly = Daily and Dedicated

Apostles Doctrine = Bible

Fellowship = Real Sharing of Lives

Breaking of Bread = Communal and Communion

Prayers = Individual and Corporate

Changed hearts and shared lives

Churching in Acts 2

1. Evangelism
2. Water Baptism
3. Teaching the Word
4. Fellowship/Community
5. Communion
6. Prayers
7. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
8. Corporate praise/worship



Identity/ Goal: Christlikeness

Institution: A family dedicated to and driven by the Gospel, formed by the Word, and living out corporate worship and obedience to Christ

Motivation: Love God and love others

4. Motto, Mission, and More

Learning, Loving, and Living Jesus

Motto: Love God Love Others ([Mark 12:30-31](#))

Mission Statement:

1. To be a community of believers that brings people into an interactive-love-based relationship with Jesus
2. To grow Christians into maturity
3. To reach out locally and around the world

Vision Statement:

- 1. To give every person of our community an opportunity to know and walk with Jesus**
- 2. To see every person in the church engaged in ministry or life groups**
- 3. To see people raised up and sent out on a regular basis**

Attitude and Approach:

-Mark 12:30-31 NKJV

'And you shall love the **LORD** your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

"And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

-Mark 12:30-31 NKJV

Core Values

- Humility, Holiness, and Heart ([John 13](#))
- Love is our motivation
- Christlikeness is our goal

Life on Mission:

Matthew 28:18-20 CEB

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, -

Life on Mission:

Matthew 28:18-20 CEB

20 teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

Life on Mission:

Acts 1:8 NKJV

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

As His disciples, who make disciples...

hear and do - **Matt 7:24–25**

Train up others - **Matt 28:20**

1. Set Free

2. Set Apart

3. Set Together

4. *Sent* on Mission

- 1. A humbly submitted heart**
- 2. A personal daily time with the Lord
(word & prayer)**
- 3. A small group/Bible study/discipleship**
- 4. A way to serve...**

“I will build My church,
and the gates of Hell
shall not prevail against it.”

- Jesus

Matthew 16:18

Bibliography/ Recommended Reading :

1. Epic by John Eldridge
2. The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard
3. Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus. By Michael J. Wilkins.
4. The Anatomy of a Disciple: So Many Believers. So Few Disciples. by Dr. Rick Taylor

