



VICTORY & VISION

Victory and Vision Sunday

February 6, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 28:18-20, ¹⁸ “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and the hearing of His Word; Amen.

It is at this intersection of Scripture that we find ourselves hearing the clarion call of the Messiah concerning The Great Commission. It is this Great Commission that ultimately gave a Great Mission to the Church which was to perpetuate this Gospel Message until Christ returns for His Glorious Church.

We, who count ourselves faithful to the Full Gospel Message as well as beholden to authentic Pentecostal Expression, value the Gospel Message and our Full Gospel Experience.

Today we will endeavor to discuss what we shall be known for as The Assembly West Monroe but to truly define said endeavor, I must first delineate what we will not be as a Faith Community.

A regrettable byproduct of our current plight is that the Church at large is bowing down to social pressure, ungodly and unbiblical agendas, and governmental scrutiny. There are denominations and fellowships who are adapting their doctrines, biblical stances, and sacrificing biblical fundamentalism to appease a populace and a constituency that care nothing for truth nor for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church has lost its way due to the adoption of moral relativism, situational ethics, and doctrinal failures.

This is an unfortunate consequence of a pampered American Church that preaches an American Gospel that is neither biblically correct nor contextually accurate to the present reality of so many Christians around the Globe. To be quite honest and forward, the American Church is soft, is selfish, and is self-centered.

The American Church is soft because we allow petty things that will have no impact on eternity to wreck our faith thus we throw our faith away, backslide and make shipwreck of our witness.

We want our faith walk the way we want our American dream; easy and comfortable without stress, difficulty or toil.

The American Church is selfish because far too many Church folks treat their pastors and religious leaders with contempt and believe that, because they tithe to a Church, that they own their pastors therefore believing that the Church and everything in it exists for their comfort and for their control.

And finally, the American Church is self-centered because if anything makes us uncomfortable, if a Pastor tells us the truth and it “hurts our feelings”, if the music isn’t our choice or if we don’t get to choose the play list, if the preaching challenges us or, God forbid, other Church members hold us accountable for our words or actions then that Church and its members are “too judgmental, legalistic and don’t love people”.

This is not the kind of Church that Jesus died to build nor is any of what I have defined adherent to the historical record of Christianity nor its persecution; whether said persecution is found in our past or our present globally. And more specifically, this is not who we are.

Therefore, what is a Church, biblically speaking, supposed to be known for? What is the Holy Spirit leading us to do as The Assembly West Monroe? What are we to be known for?

1) We will be known for Biblical Preaching!

- a. 2 Timothy 4:1-3, “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: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 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,”
- b. At The Assembly West Monroe, we are not afraid to stand on the Truth of God’s Word nor will we ever adapt our doctrinal stances for the sake accommodating those who live contrary to His Word!
- c. Church Family, we don’t need more pop-psychology preaching nor feel good messages. There are times when the Word corrects and other times when the Word encourages! It’s a double edged sword for a reason and we don’t need to value one edge more than the other.
- d. We will remain genuine by providing engaging sermons, deep topics, and personally applicable principles that we can apply to our lives. We value the Whole Counsel of the Word and not parts of it.

- e. We will be known for Strong, Doctrinal, and Biblical Preaching!
And we will not apologize for that; it is who we are! But not only will we have strong biblical preaching, point #2...

2) We will be known for Spirit Filled Worship and Spirit Filled Services!

- a. Ephesians 5:17-20, **“¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”**
- b. We will not shy away from the Move of the Holy Spirit in our worship services nor the manifestation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in our gatherings.
- c. Far too many churches are afraid to allow the Holy Spirit to move in their services because they are concerned about how some folks will act or conduct themselves. We have all seen antics that others claim was the Holy Spirit and it wasn't no more God than I am a Big Mac.
- d. I desire demonstration and manifestation but I expect it to be done in order and reverently according to the Scriptures; Pure Demonstration is validated and affirmed by Biblical Order.

- e. Church Family, the Holy Spirit is not weird, the gifts are not weird and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not weird. It is people who make it weird.
- f. We will not apologize for being a Pentecostal Church because this is simply who we are; But not only will we have strong biblical preaching and demonstrate authentic Pentecostal expression, point #3...

3) We will be known for Generational and Ethnic Diversity

- a. How will we go about accomplishing this goal and perpetuating it into our future as a church family? How will we accomplish being Generationally and Ethnically Diverse? I believe that the truest expression of the Heart of God in His Church is when the Church mirrors the Current State of Heaven!
- b. Revelation 5:8-10, “⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

- c. We will celebrate the ethnic and generational diversity of our Church because we desire for our Church to resemble Heaven in every way. And if there will be every tribe and tongue and kindred and nation around the throne then should not the Church resemble the same?
- d. My concern, as your Pastor is not the color of your skin nor the year you were born; all I want to know is has the blood been applied? Are you born again? Is your name written in His book? Are you filled with the Holy Ghost? Are you serving Jesus?
- e. (Plans for the Future) - The Assembly Espanol, Young Adult Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Outreaches into the community
- f. But not only will we be diverse ethnically and generationally, Point #4...

4) We will be known for Biblical Discipleship

- a. According to Acts 2, the early Church was faithful to discipleship, to fellowship, to eating and to doing life together, to praying together, to submission and support of spiritual leadership, and they were a community that loved God and loved one another.
- b. Acts 2:42-47, ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed

were together and had all things in common.⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

- c. But the critical key of this passage of text is found in one simple phrase, “and day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes...” They were consistent day by day, they were faithful to Church attendance and they spent time together building relationships and doing life together.
- d. (Plans for the Future) – Connect Groups = motorcycle group, Sunday School gatherings, Discipleship Classes = goal is Fall 2022
- e. But not only will we be known for biblical discipleship, point #5...

5) We will be known for Servant Leadership

- a. As Servant Leaders, we will use our gifts, talents and abilities for the furtherment of the Church and in the serving of one another within the Body of Christ.
- b. 1 Peter 4:10-11, ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who

serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

- c. Our goal is to mobilize our entire Church body, every member to be a viable, active and involved partner of the Vision of The Assembly. Every department of our Church is need of manpower because our Church is quite literally growing in every way possible.
- d. If you are not actively involved them make the decision today to get on the ball! We need your help! Call the Church office, join the connect track, ask a friend where they are serving and dive in. We need You! We need your gifts in this House!
- e. But not only will we be known for Servant Leadership, Point #6...

6) We will be known for Financial Partnership

- a. The Church at Philippi believed in the Mission and Vision of the Apostle Paul and financially partnered with him to ensure the Gospel message went around the world!
- b. Philippians 4:14-20, ¹⁴“Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no Church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to

your credit.¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

- c. Their giving, some 1900 years ago, is the very reason why we as Gentiles are able to know the Lord today and their giving is still making an impact. It is the heart and intent of this Church that our giving towards the Mission and Vision of The Assembly West Monroe will echo into the future as well.
- d. And after almost a century of Full-Gospel Ministry, The Assembly West Monroe is just getting started. A dear friend and counselor recently said, “Sometimes our greatest victories become our greatest failures” The principle is simple; we can’t rely on our past victories to be the fix all to our current predicament. As John Maxwell said, “Yesterday’s homeruns do not win today’s games.” I am grateful for the Victories of our Past, I’m grateful for yesterday’s home runs, but I am looking earnestly towards our Vision for the Future! All we have to do is keep on swinging!
- e. And it is these things that we will be known for! On this side of eternity and on the other side. Amen.