

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 1-4-26
For the sake of the call to make Him known!

1. Introduction:

- a. By God's grace we have arrived at 2026!
- b. Illustration –
 - 1) Jesus used parables at times to teach truth and expose hearts.
 - c. This story makes some powerful points as to the importance of vision.
 - 1) The ship –
 - 2) The captain –
 - 3) The crew and passengers –
 - 4) Setting sail with enthusiasm –
 - 5) The absence of a clear destination –
 - 6) Busy but aimless –
 - d. Church, why we do what we do is important.
 - 1) God has graciously provided us direction.
 - a) Vision – “To Know Christ and to Make Him Known”
 - b) Mission – “Reaching to Teach, Teaching for Change, Changing to be like Christ.”
 - 2) As His church we labor, serve, pray, and invest together –
 - 3) As we labor, serve, pray, and invest, we are also in a battle.
 - a) Never forget that Jesus is the One building His church, and that gates of hell cannot prevail against it.
 - b) We are supposed to do this together. To STAND TOGETHER.
 - e. Jesus is still building His church.
 - f. Jesus is developing leaders.

2. What happens when there is no vision?

- a. This is important to understand. Proverbs 29:18
 - 1) Vision is more important than many people understand.
 - b. “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
 - 1) “vision” – speaks of a clear understanding of God's will and purpose.
 - 2) “perish” – specifically – people let loose, lack restraint.
 - a) The word “perish” leads some to think of an immediate physical death. The imagery is that of a spiritual languishing, lack of purpose resulting in disunity and a drifting away from God's will.
 - 3) The point – unless people have a definite sense of purpose, direction, and parameters, they live according to their own choice and will – much to their detriment.
- c. Vision is important but not just in the church.
 - 1) Vision is important in marriage, raising children –
 - 2) Vision – a clear and precise mental portrait of a preferable future, imparted by God to those whom He has charged to lead and holds accountable.
- d. The other side of this truth. Proverbs 29:18
 - 1) “but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
 - a) This speaks of those who live according to what God has said, to what He has revealed thus discovering wisdom, contentment, and blessings.
- e. Retune our hearts.

- 1) We do that when we read the Word of God. We keep reading; we keep reviewing – why? To renew our minds.
- 2) Why did God establish His church?
 - a) II Peter 3:9 –
 - b) There are still countless numbers of people who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- 3) We, the body of Christ, are the wildcard in God's desire that not any should perish but that all would come to repentance.
 - a) There are only 3 things that are eternal. God, the Word of God and the –

3. Today's Take Away:

- a. Gospel centered –
 - 1) Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- b. New to Southside –
 - 1) Would you take some time to think about this?
- c. Members –
 - 1) How can you be a part of its fulfillment in 2026?
- d. Ministry leaders –
 - 1) Is your ministry fulfilling our Vision? Is your ministry reflecting our Mission?
- e. Teachers –
 - 1) Through your teaching are you helping your class “Know Him”?
 - 2) Are you challenging your class to “Make Him Known”?
- f. Leaders –
 - 1) Being led by the Spirit, we are tasked with -