

# Clear Vision for 2020 Pt. 3

## Selected Scriptures

### ***Introduction:***

There is no doubt that the church of the 21st century is facing some tremendous challenges that it was not even facing 10 yrs ago.

The mandate for the church from the Word of God has not changed but the culture and the mindset of Christians sure have.

If fact, in some cases there is very little resemblance of what the Word of God says about the church and what we are seeing expressed today.

Pragmatism, Secularism and Individualism have gained significant ground in the last 20 years, so much so that it has radically transformed the way a church does ministry.

Results have become the primary point of ministry and church life.

If its not producing, then we need to can it and find another way.

There is a growing percentage of professing believers who believe they can have a growing relationship with Christ yet have no commitment or

involvement in the local visible body of Christ... The church.

They are content to audit the church via just attendance or via video or audio.

The only commitment to a local church they are willing to make is to drive to the place and sit down and listen.

This individualism is a plague in the church. The Church of God is the Family of God and it is most important family on this planet you have. It is the family you will spend eternity with.

Yet many interact with this family is a very bazaar way.

Unlike their physical family that they are genetically connected to which they

1. talk to
2. spend large amounts of time with.
3. Eat with
4. Spend money on
5. Are involved with on many levels
6. Are committed to, to the point of Death
7. Desirous of getting to know better.

It is not that way with their church family. IF we approached our immediate family of spouse and children the way many interact with the church, our spiritual family.

We would come home once a week, maybe. Sometimes only twice a month if we feel like it we might show up, if nothing more important isn't happening.

But when I do come, I will only sit down and listen for about an hour or so and then I will leave. Im not going to help with anything.

I will bring dirt in on my shoes but have no desire to help clean it up.

I will enjoy the comfortable chair, and the Heating and Air Conditioning, but Im not going to give any money to help with the cost.

I will eat the excellent meals but never engage on any level about how good it was, or facilitate the making of the meal.

Most of the family I will have nothing to do with and will never make an attempt to talk to or get to know them.

When some one in my family is hurt, I won't be available.

When someone in my family is in need, I won't give the money to help

But I will expect, when I do show up for everything to be done in such a way that it pleases me and makes me feel good and meets my needs.

John MacArthur states

“Rarely do I hear people talk about commitment to the church, love for the church, devotion to the church, even covenanting to be faithful to the church, joining the church, being a member of the church.

It called Ecclesiastical consumerism, where I have a personal relationship with Christ and I sort of live my Christian life based upon whatever appeals to me. I’m over here, I’m over there; I’m here, I’m there, bouncing around and shopping my Christianity: no long-term relationships, no deep devotion, no lasting spiritual dynamics among the people of God with whom I live. I’m a shopper, I’m a consumer, and that’s the world we live in; and I consume my Christianity in the doses and the forms that appeal to me. It’s about me.

You can go so far as to create your own media religion. You have the music that you want to listen to on your iPhone or whatever other device you use. You have the preaching that you want to listen to available to you, you download that. You can download bits and pieces of your own basic smorgasbord choice and create your own religion. That’s becoming increasingly popular; sort of personalized media church.

Another thing that I think is very threatening to the reality of life in the church is cyber church, auditing the church from a distance, auditing the church from a distance. “I don’t go to church, but I tune in livestream, or I listen on the radio, or my church is on TV.” That’s not even close to fulfilling what the Lord expects out of a believer. What happens with Ecclesiastical consumers and cyber church people and self-styled media religionists is that they neglect all that a church really is, and that starts with they neglect the ordinances: baptism, the regular time at the Lord’s Table, corporate worship, mutual ministry service. They also avoid accountability. They’re living in the world of their own, and it’s a world that essentially makes them anonymous.

## **Lesson**

- I. We Will Be Committed to the Priority of the Word of God
2. We Will Be Committed to the Priority of Worship
3. We Will Be Committed to the Priority of Missions

### **I. We Will Be Committed to the Priority of the Word of God**

# 1. Preaching

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (NKJV)

4 I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season.

Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Colossians 1:25–29 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, <sup>26</sup> the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the

glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> To this *end* I also **labor, striving** according to His working which works in me mightily. **to toil** v. — to do wearisome labor, or labor unto extreme fatigue.

**ἀγωνίζομαι** **strain** ⇔ **fight** v. — to exert much effort or energy (in something); conceived of as engaging in a fight or contest.

## 2. Teaching

Acts 2:37–42 (NKJV)

<sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Timothy 4:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> These things command and teach.

### **1 Timothy 4:13–16 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

### **2 Timothy 4:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and **teaching**.

### **Titus 2:1–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

### **Titus 2:15–3:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

## **2. We Will Be Committed to the Priority of Worship**

### **John 4:23–24 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God



*is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

### **Philippians 3:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

## **1. Public**

### **Acts 2:42–47 (NKJV)**

<sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,  
<sup>47</sup> **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

### **1 Timothy 3:14–15 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; <sup>15</sup> but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct

yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

**1. Strict adherence to Orthodox teaching.**

**2. Public Prayers in Worship are to be made for all and made by Men**

**3. Women are to dress modestly and appropriately**

**4. Women are not to preach to or teach the the church**

**5. Qualified Male Leadership is to sought and set in church**

**6. Be faithful to teach all of these things**

**1. Public Worship**

**2. Private Worship**

Our private worship is what make our Public worship possible. There is no Public worship, if the hearts of the people aren't right with God.

Many believe that their lives and how they conduct their lives can be a mess throughout the week and then casually walk into a church and worship.

The formality of worship is directly related to the fear of God you have in your heart.

It is easy to be in the form of worship and have not real worship.

This is one of the reasons the Lords Table was so essential in the New Testament Church. It was a means of purification. Confession of Sin. Examination of self.

Worship is not external it is internal. Internal worship can be encouraged or discouraged thru the external formality of worship. But most important, it needs to be understood that worship is internal

### **Stephen Charnock**

“Without the heart it's not worship, it's a stage play.”

This is the point Jesus make in John 4:23–24 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Israel fell into this trap often. The Worship became external not internal

Isaiah 1:10–20 (NKJV)

- <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord,  
 You rulers of Sodom;  
 Give ear to the law of our God,  
 You people of Gomorrah:
- <sup>11</sup> “To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices  
 to Me?”  
 Says the Lord.  
 “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams  
 And the fat of fed cattle.  
 I do not delight in the blood of bulls,  
 Or of lambs or goats.
- <sup>12</sup> “When you come to appear before Me,  
 Who has required this from your hand,  
 To trample My courts?
- <sup>13</sup> Bring no more futile sacrifices;  
 Incense is an abomination to Me.

The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—

I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

<sup>14</sup> Your New Moons and your appointed feasts

My soul hates;

They are a trouble to Me,

I am weary of bearing *them*.

<sup>15</sup> When you spread out your hands,

I will hide My eyes from you;

Even though you make many prayers,

I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

<sup>16</sup> “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;

Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,

<sup>17</sup> Learn to do good;

Seek justice,

Rebuke the oppressor;

Defend the fatherless,

Plead for the widow.

<sup>18</sup> “Come now, and let us reason together,”

Says the Lord,

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.

- <sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient,  
 You shall eat the good of the land;  
<sup>20</sup> But if you refuse and rebel,  
 You shall be devoured by the sword”;  
 For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 66:1–4 (NKJV)

**66** Thus says the Lord:

“Heaven *is* My throne,  
 And earth *is* My footstool.  
 Where *is* the house that you will build Me?  
 And where *is* the place of My rest?

- <sup>2</sup> For all those *things* My hand has made,  
 And all those *things* exist,”  
 Says the Lord.

“But on this *one* will I look:  
 On *him who is* poor and of a contrite spirit,  
 And who trembles at My word.

- <sup>3</sup> “He who kills a bull *is as if* he slays a man;  
 He who sacrifices a lamb, *as if* he breaks a dog’s  
 neck;  
 He who offers a grain offering, *as if he offers*  
 swine’s blood;  
 He who burns incense, *as if* he blesses an idol.

Just as they have chosen their own ways,  
And their soul delights in their abominations,

- 4 So will I choose their delusions,  
And bring their fears on them;  
Because, when I called, no one answered,  
When I spoke they did not hear;  
But they did evil before My eyes,  
And chose *that* in which I do not delight.”

#### Amos 5:21–24 (NKJV)

- 21 “I hate, I despise your feast days,  
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.  
22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your  
grain offerings,  
I will not accept *them*,  
Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.  
23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs,  
For I will not hear the melody of your stringed  
instruments.  
24 But let justice run down like water,  
And righteousness like a mighty stream.

#### Proverbs 15:8 (NKJV)

8 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the Lord,  
But the prayer of the upright *is* His delight.

Proverbs 21:27 (NKJV)

27 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination;  
How much more *when* he brings it with wicked intent!

Proverbs 28:9 (NKJV)

9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,  
Even his prayer *is* an abomination.

Matthew 23:14 (NKJV)

14 **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.**

Matthew 23:23 (NKJV)

23 **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**



## Matthew 23:25–28 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.

<sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness.<sup>28</sup> Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

## IN Contrast

### Ephesians 5:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

### Philippians 4:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

## Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

**12** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* reasonable service.

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Worship has had a metamorphosis in the last century. It has become a spectator sport rather than participatory worship.

Worship is given to the professionals to preform, while the congregation, sits passively to watch what the Professionals do.

**Charles Spurgeon**

“Do not flatter yourselves: if you go to places of worship merely to look about you or to hear music, you are not worshipping God.”

Our culture is so saturated with entertainment, and the reception of pleasure, that it approaches Worship the same way.

“It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God.” AW Tozer

Many come to church to get something, or experience something or feel something and if that is not achieved, then it is believed that Worship did not occur.

To many times, the statement is repeated.  
 “I did not get anything out of that”  
 As if it was about you and for you!!!!

Now I will be the first to admit, that there are Poorly done worship services where the pastor is ill prepared or not qualified to be a pastor. Our the worship thru music is not done in a God honoring way and this can be a deterrent to worship for sure. But the mentality I am speaking of is the twisting of worship into a “I get” “I receive” approach rather than, I serve, I give, I obey.

“In the Tabernacle there were no seats. The Israelites didn’t go there to sit and be ministered to, and they certainly didn’t go there for entertainment. They went there to worship God and serve Him. If they had a meeting for any other purpose, they had it somewhere else.”

– John F. MacArthur Jr., Worship: The Ultimate Priority

## Positive

### 1. Present your Bodies

...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

### 2. Transform your mind

2.....be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## RC Sproul wrote

“The worship to which we are called in our renewed state is far too important to be left to personal preferences, to whims, or to marketing strategies. It is the pleasing of God that is at the heart of worship. Therefore, our worship must be informed at every point by the Word of God as we seek God’s own instructions for worship that is pleasing to Him.”

“The real crisis of worship today is not that the preaching is paltry or that it’s too drafty in church. It is that people have no sense of the presence of

God, and if they have no sense of His presence, how can they be moved to express the deepest feelings of their souls to honor, revere, worship, and glorify God?”

“God is never pleased with ignorant worship, with worship that is not grounded in the knowledge of God.”

## Negative

1. Do not be **conformed** to the World.

Pres. Midd/Pass part

Original Word: συσχηματίζω

4964 sysxēmatízō (from 4862 /sýn, "identified with" and sxēmatizō, "having outward shape") – properly, assuming a similar outward form (expression) by following the same pattern (model, mold).

From **sun** and a derivative of **schema**; to fashion alike, i.e. Conform to the same pattern (figuratively)  
-- conform to, fashion self according to.

“Worship is no longer worship when it reflects the culture around us more than the Christ within us.”

A.W Tozer

### Ephesians 5:18–21 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another in the fear of God.

### Colossians 3:16–17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>17</sup> And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

### 1 Peter 1:13–16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup> as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; <sup>15</sup> but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy

in all *your* conduct, <sup>16</sup> because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

1 Peter 1:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear;

1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9–12 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who

once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, <sup>12</sup> having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

### **3. We Will Be Committed to the Priority of Missions Evangelism**

“Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you're not saved yourself, be sure of that!”

— **Charles Spurgeon**

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** <sup>19</sup> **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** <sup>20</sup> **teaching**



them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Mark 16:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Luke 24:46–48 (NKJV)

<sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> 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.”

Acts 13:46–49 (NKJV)

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge

yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us:

‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,  
*That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.*’”

<sup>48</sup> Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.

Acts 28:28 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!”

## **1. Local Missions**

### Local Evangelism

1. Personal Conversation
2. Distribution of Tracts
3. Inviting to Church
4. Abortion Clinics
5. Clarification of Gospel message.

Justin Peters

## 6. Street Preaching, Evangelism, Apologetics

### 2. World Missions

1. Kenya, India.
2. Teaching Pastors, Teaching of Orphans.
3. Go, get involved. Give money.

Pray, Pray, Pray for God to Work and open the eyes of the blind.

“We best defend the Lord's glory by speaking first TO Him about unbelieving men rather than speaking first ABOUT Him to unbelieving men.”

— **Dr. Sinclair Ferguson**

Acts 1:12–14 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. <sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord

in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

### Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”

### 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.