

All With Jesus - Church Vision (20-25 vision)

Before the new year we asked ourselves:

What are we going to be lit for personally in 2025?

Instead of empty resolutions, we hopefully want real life.

To be filled by the Holy Spirit and to see His kingdom come in 2025.

For those around us. For ourselves. For the church.

Primarily & ultimately to be closer to Jesus. To know Him and make Him known.

As believers, we're a part of the "body" of Jesus. The church.

We can't be healthy apart from it - imperfect as it is.

Hebrews 10:23-25 NKJV - Let us hold fast the confession of [our] hope without wavering, for He who promised [is] faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The day? That's Jesus' return. It's approaching. We're seeing it.

Again, I don't know that there's anything spiritual special about a new "year"

But I think it's a good time to share the church "vision"

For 2025, sure, but really in general. **However this next season plays out.**

We're Jesus' sheep.

He is the shepherd.

We are all under Him.

But as pastor, it's my duty to lead us and guide us - after Him.

1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV - Imitate me, just as I also [imitate] Christ.

GPS I like knowing the next step, but also the step after

Verse we can look forward to:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 NKJV - "But this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

But until then...

[Pray]

**Before the vision (aim, direction, mission) for the church -
What is the church?**

- **The church, the body is you and I** - if we're believers. We're members of Jesus' body
God Has Set the Members, 2/11/24 1 Cor 12:12-27

7 Lampstands *You are the light of the world*

- Specific local churches in the days of the apostles
- Church ages throughout history (some relation to denominations)
- Spiritual condition of church, no matter time period or name on the door

**The church is not the building, but the believers in the building
If the church is just a building, it's dead**

Acts 17:24 NKJV - "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

So as a church, we want to be alive!

Ephesians 2:4-9 NKJV - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made US alive TOGETHER with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

5-fold mission, as individuals, and the church

(no particular order)

- **Prayer** - for everything, anything, all things - to the Father, through Jesus

- **Fellowship** - Not just friendship, companionship - but brought together by the blood of Jesus
- **Bible study** - and application! Taught by His Spirit, led by His Spirit. Grounded, washed by the water of the Word
- **Evangelism** - being the hands and feet of Jesus. Sharing Jesus with the world "They will know you are my disciples by your love for one another"
Sunday's primary goal is NOT evangelism. Is not number's seeking. Sunday's primary goal is to do all of the above, but to equip the SAINTS (you, the body!) for the ministry the other 167 hours a week. (if one hour)
- **Worship** - all of the above! But also in heart, in song, in life "singing songs, hymns and spiritual songs to God" and one another

**Church meeting is essential, healthy, wonderful, joyous -
but it's the start of the ministry, not the end.**

What starts in prayer personally is built up here and sent out there.

It starts, ends and everything in between...all with Jesus.

**A tree without branches is a stump
Branches without a tree is just firewood**

Jhn 15:5-8 NKJV - "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw [them] into the fire, and they are burned. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

**The church's function is an extension of the believer's personal lives
The church cannot function without the life of the believer being right**

For 2025 and beyond - we want to do All With Jesus.

We don't need to bring someone to church, we need to bring them to Jesus.

Doing so might in practice bring them to church, but the fellowship of believers (church) is not the destination, it is like a public rocket launching pad to the heavens

**It's a problem if we see the church as an organization to do things on it's own
separate from the life of believers**

- *Oh, my pastor will do that,*
- *i come to church to get ministered to (ok on some degree),*
- *I come to hear the teaching*
- *I come and only sing songs here*
- *I come to have an outlet to serve (OK, but it shouldn't be the only outlet, it should be the outlet to serve as a group, and to serve the group)*

We ARE the church. We ALL get to BE the church.

It's as easy as showing up!

Show up, and God will reveal himself to you.

Don't show up, you'll just be missing out.

**We don't need membership forms, guilt trips,
or signatures on paper.**

We just need to want to spend time with Jesus.

He'll make us members of one another (1 Corinthians)

Stick around!

It's why there's food. There's coffee. We're pretty good at this already (that's a good sign of healthy believers).

Talk to each other. Pray for each other. Talk about the Bible. Talk about your week.

Talk about whatever you need to talk about.

That's fellowship!

Light conversation is good, but step out. Be willing to ask. Be willing to share. Don't leave it at the weather or surface things. Be willing to be vulnerable - in both listening and sharing.

Be Bible junkies!

Read the Bible. Study the Bible!

Be a Berean!

Acts 17:10-12 NKJV - Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily [to find out] whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Search the scriptures daily!

Feed your hunger.

If you're not hungry for the word, then you might be spiritually sick!

Resources on the website - Books, messages, educational videos, ministries.

Get Involved!

When we sing ... Don't be shy to sing!

When we pray ... Don't be afraid to pray!

I know it's scary. I know we're shy.

Believe it or not, I'm introverted! Talking wears me out. Being around people can wear me out.

But being around believers, even if it wears me out physically, spiritually I get built up, energized, encouraged.

The church isn't me, it's us!

I'm not here for you primarily, I'm here because this is where Jesus has me.

Then I'm here for you.

I'd still do this if no one showed up (and have).

But if no one shows up for a while, then I make sure Jesus really wants me here.

And if so, great. If not, great!

As long as it's With him!

But, if you're not here, it's kinda pointless. You being here is just as important as me being here.

I get fed by the message, and I pray you do too.

Get Fed! (not federal)

If you're getting fed by God. You'll be led by God.
 If you come here and get a good spiritual meal in all of the above
 Teaching, evangelism, fellowship, worship, prayer
Then keep coming.

If you're getting fed, share the meal with others.

**We're here to eat.
 But then to move our feet.**

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."

Witnesses to the World

God has us in the capital of Montana for a reason.

Be involved in the community.

Be involved in legislation.

To help shape our city, our state. And hopefully our nation.

I know there are other good churches here in Helena, here in Montana.

**So why start another one?
 Because God said so.**

Summer 2017, flight into Missoula

Romans 10:14-15a NKJV - How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? ...

We're not here to do it better.

We're here to reach the people God wants to reach.

Who?

- **Not to poach from other churches.**

If someone is being fed somewhere else, genuinely, then I don't want them to leave. I don't know that God would call them to, he might.

But we're not here to take sheep or build on anyone else's work.

And because not everyone goes to a church right now.

If everyone was a believer

If everyone had a good church home

There'd be even more churches in Helena, packed out with 10 services a day.

But there's plenty more.

- **Those who have been burned, hurt, left behind, backslid**
I've met so many people in the past 6 ½ years this way. I haven't gotten any to stick around yet, but I'm praying they will. And it doesn't have to be here, but somewhere they can be fed by the Lord.
- **Those who haven't met the Lord yet**
There's people out there who will be a part of the church. God is calling them. We need to make ourselves available to God and to them to reach them.
Not for the church's sake for numbers, but for the Kingdom's sake, and theirs
- **Reach & Raise Up all generations**
Children, Families, All Generations "Let the little children come to me"
It's hard right now in this space to do something specific for children, but it's also good that they're in here with us. We want to reach people on their level - but we're also one church. Not separate churches based on age.
A healthy church will have all ages, all incomes, single, newlywed, students, business folk, ranchers. Our target demographic? People whom God loves.
- **Love each other like family. Don't have to be best friends. But we're there for one another. Genuinely interested in each other's well being.**

Teach the Word - Be Sound in Doctrine

(more on Getting Fed from before)

First visiting, asked what was the problematic doctrine in the area, cult?

Obviously JW, Polygamists in Bitterroot

The real problem, "No doctrine"

I'm not the best Bible teacher, but I want to just teach the Bible!

2 Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV - 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: Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 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; and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and

be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

I know there are people out there who are hungry for the Word.

How? Because I am. You are. And others are.

If there wasn't, God would send me (and you) somewhere else.

Matthew 18:10-14 NKJV - "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? "And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that [sheep] than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Helena Valley/North Valley

Been praying about it. Driving out Lincoln Road into the North Valley

God wants to reach the Helena Valley

We're here right now, on the north edge of town

Maybe He's pointing us to reach the North Valley in this next season

Maybe just the whole valley.

Something to be praying about. Maybe that's where the next open door will be.

Resurrection - new life. Not the old life.

As a Resurrection fellowship. People given new life in Jesus.

In everything we do, let it be ALL WITH JESUS.

Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV - Therefore, as [the] elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also [must do]. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 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. 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.