

# 20-20 Vision

## Changing the Church for the better .....

## Changing ourselves for the better .....

Focus



Part	Vision Description	Key text	Commentary	Supplementary texts		Practical questions
1	disciples of Jesus listening intently to the Shepherd's voice	John 10: 27	Today there are many siren voices which try to persuade us to take our eyes away from Jesus. But His disciples know His voice and feel deeply uncomfortable when a "gospel" is preached that is not totally focused on Jesus. The task of the true disciple of Jesus is to constantly listen-out for His voice.	Psalms 23; John 10: 1 - 30; Hebrews 2: 1;	<b>Jesus</b>	* How do we listen to His Voice?  * how do we express our desire and determination NOT to follow other voices?
2	disciples of Jesus attuned to the scandalous nature of the Gospel message - and sharing it joyously	1 Corinthians 1: 23	The gospel - the reality that it is ONLY through a crucified God that we may find ultimate peace - is a scandal to the world at large. Christians need to be attuned to the reality that this gospel is a scandal. Very often the world sees the gospel not as good news but as bad news!	Colossians 1: 15 - 23	<b>Good News!</b>	* how comfortable are YOU with scandal?  * Do we try to "dress up" the gospel message to make it less scandalous?
3	disciples of Jesus seeking to understand end-time realities whilst witnessing to a real-time world	Acts 1: 7 - 8	It is clear that God does have an end-time plan and we are called to be aware of "signs" that the end may be near. But in the meantime and for always, our call is to witness of Jesus - to a now-time world.	2 Peter 3; Revelation 22: 7 - 17; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 5: 11; 2 Thessalonians 2; 2 Timothy 3	<b>End - time</b>	* how do we keep the end in - view and maintain a sense of urgency without becoming obsessive?  Where does end - time "fit" in today's gospel message?
4	disciples of Jesus at ease with the reality of "one new man" - believing Jew and believing Gentile united in Christ	Ephesians 2: 15	It is clear that God continues to work out His purposes through the Hebrew people (Ephesians 2: 11 - 22 and Romans chapters 9 through 11). Christians seem to react violently either becoming very anti-Jewish or very pro-Jewish. But the call is to understand - to recognise what God is doing and to wonder at the outworking of His covenantal purposes. That is why we need to be "at ease" with these concepts. Otherwise we will be perplexed!	Ephesians 2: 11 - 22; Colossians 2: 6 - 12; Romans 10: 16 - 11: 12;	<b>One New Man</b>	* just what do YOU understand of "One New Man"? How should this understanding affect our day to day witness?  * why does the institutional church have a history with anti-semitism seemingly in-built into its DNA?

5	disciples of Jesus rejoicing in the Hebraic root, understanding Jesus in His Hebraic hinterland and rejoicing in the precisely balanced relationship of the New Testament and the Old Testament	Romans 11 : 11 - 12	Jesus came to bring the good news first to the Hebrews and then to the wider world (John 10: 16). His family was always going to be enlarged. God's covenant with the nation of Israel was always going to be enlarged. The challenge for believers today is to understand God's on-going purposes in the land He has set aside as His land for His people, as well as His purposes in the wider world.	Romans 1: 16; Matthew 15: 24; 2 Timothy 3: 16 (note - precisely what Scripture was Paul referring to?); Luke chapter 24 - especially verse 27.	Hebraic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* does the church typically have a "bee in its bonnet" that non-Jews are in-grafted to the Hebrew root?</li> <li>* how do we understand election in terms of God's eternal salvation plan?</li> <li>* how do we hold, in holy tension, Galatians chapter 5 and Romans chapter 11?</li> </ul>
6	disciples of Jesus praying and working tirelessly for our persecuted brothers and sisters	John 15: 18 - 21	There has always been persecution and always will be. The Bible makes it clear that at the end persecution will entail significant analogies with persecution at the beginning. Whilst we have the freedom and ability to act, we owe a special debt to our suffering brothers and sisters, wherever they may be.	Matthew 5: 3 - 12 (especially 11-12); Matthew 10: 17-42; Mark 13: 9; John 15: 18 - 16: 4; Revelation 2: 9 - 10 and 13; Revelation 6: 9 - 11; Romans 8: 17; Ephesians 6:18	Suffering Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* what does Christian persecution mean to you on a day to day basis?</li> <li>* Is prayer for persecuted Christians a part of your church's ministry?</li> <li>* why are some Christians reluctant to acknowledge persecution?</li> </ul>
7	disciples of Jesus committed to prayer and to the study of the Bible	1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 18	Prayer is always the believer's vital breath. If we do not pray, we will not see God's power displayed. God gives us the privilege of praying direct, not through priest or intermediary, but through Jesus our Lord (John 14: 13). God has given us His word; it is the utmost folly for a believer not to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the word He has given.	Matthew 6: 9 - 13; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 John 5:14-15 ; Jeremiah 29:11-15 ; Matthew 21:21-22; Acts 2: 42; Jeremiah 33: 3; 2 Timothy 3: 10-17; James 1: 5 - 7	Individual commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* where precisely does prayer come in your personal priorities?</li> <li>* could you become a prayer warrior?</li> <li>* HOW can you more effectively engage with the scriptures?</li> </ul>

**2020 Vision is something that individuals may wish to adopt as a personal sacrifice of worship to the Lord Jesus.**

**This is not seen as a panacea or 'cure all' for the institutional church. We know that God will work out His purposes as we seek to follow Him through Jesus His Son. Commitment to prayer, fellowship and the continual infilling of the Holy Spirit is what God first and foremost desires for His children. There is certainly 'room' for believers to be more focused on what Jesus requires so as to be able to meet today's challenges, as we live in today's post-Christian culture.**

**Adopting 2020 Vision for ourselves may help us focus on the key issues that will impact the church in the next ten years.**