

Screaming for True Values!
2010, Part 3
Slide Notations

Connecting the dots for the new year!

Connecting... Great Annual Report! Prosperity in the midst of recession... 11% increase tithes/offerings. Only because God was faithful, prospered you, you rightly responded to Him! Right response = continued prosperity! *Prosperity because He is not in the storms of this life...* And neither are we when we realize we were “made to be seated with Him in heavenly places...” **E2.6** Must ask yourself, “Where am I sitting?”

Connecting... Great Annual Report! Growth in the midst of national church decline... increased salvations, facility, finances, attendance! Only Sunday adult attendance has plateaued... reached size limits! Cleared the way for next add-on... Adding the foyer of our future building to serve as classroom and dining room for Life Kids! (New Building Complex Plan)

How...? *Easy way:* 450 adults giving \$1,000 each over next few months... **DONE!** *Real way:* everyone doing what the Lord enables them to do... some less – some more! With regular doses of encouragement to discover how much He can do thru you! *Best way:* everyone tithing!

Connecting... Ministry to a society in moral upheaval!

Politically off track/unrighteous rule... Although signs of “discomfiting!” **YAY!** “Hamam:” to disturb, confuse, vex, put into commotion! Scott Brown win/debacle. Erroll Southers, TSA Nominee withdrew: “Anti-abortionists = Muslim Jihadists”

Economically: wheels still off! National indebtedness, consumer debt... Special interests, special deals, scams... Unemployment worsened in 43 states... Bright spot: Christians re-positioning! CBN: Couple builds real estate fortune after hearing message at church/debt. More than one million graduated FPU!

Religiously hostile society... Everyone has freedoms in America except for the people who made it great! People accept spirituality, not Christianity! *When church replaced being good w/doing good... weakened...* Same church/preparing answers that will result in ultimate defeat!

The Church... Began w/One man 12 followers! w/i 3 yrs, about 120 left in an upper room to pray! (shake-out/pattern!) Command comes: “take it to the world, but to wait for the power to do it!” Holy Spirit drops in/fires ignited! 11 “flamers” ministering to thousands! About 3,000 meeting together in homes for study, fellowship, prayers! More added daily... fellowship grew... moved into more spacious structures! Preaching continued, missionaries sent out, church spread thru known world... **Offices Jesus gave as gifts, employed in regular, word based training of people** supposed to remain in s/f/p and return for regular instruction in righteousness! End of the narrative: Word, not supposed to change or depart from, circulating throughout the world! (God’s idea!)

The new answers... (Man’s ideas)

Dilute the Word of God so that it’s palatable to all! Treat God’s word as “input!” Call sin “mistakes” because sin is too b/w! Do away w/“conviction” because it sounds too much like condemnation! Subscribe to: “what people do in concert has moral legitimacy.” Find “prophets” to confirm what you want to hear! “Do away w/religion... do!” Meat > milk > skim wrong direction!

Syncretize the Church w/other belief systems to open to the most people! How Constantine brought us dark ages... How Catholic Church got stuck with Santeria in the Caribbean and Mexico... How modern

church has become deluded enough to accept compromises that the Word/God take a stand against! “His Word stands forever!” **Mt5.18 &cp’s**

1Timothy 6.20, 21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. –NKJ (hmmm!)

Exegesis... O Timothy! Isolate and preserve what has been deposited with you, deflecting and turning away from worldly and fruitless discussions and oppositions of knowledge that are falsely named for what they are... which some engaging and then asserting have deviated from the faith! –GK

Exposition... Preserve unaltered/uncorrupted the Word, to hand down to others/preserve. Turn from the “antitheses,” laying of one heterogeneous faith alongside ours to compare, refute, combine... Reject the methodologies of false knowledge belief systems to gain acceptance as equal and acceptable! Otherwise you will miss the mark/faith!

Decentralize the church into small, experiential, unscholarly, home groups! Quickening the final failure of the church! Like Health Care that works for 75% of Americans doesn’t need to be changed out to help the 25%... So the Church shouldn’t be rejected because part of it needs to be refocused! We don’t go back to the beginning to fix the church... We return to the place where we lost vitality!

The Church... Lost its preeminence to weariness > apathy > conviviality! No more “work” **J9.4 R13.13,14** No more “rejection” **Mt10.16-26** No more standing “out” **2C6.17 H7.6** Let us rest and feast and play... *In “social drunkenness” we forgot righteousness and justice... for the dying! Pr31.4,5*

The Church... Lost its power when we left off living by the Word – Man-reason is no match for God-wisdom! Earthly, sensual, devilish **J3.15ff vs.** High, peaceable, joyous, prosperous, and equal to His name/image! **Is 55.8-13** We became vain in our imagination that we could create God in our own image... And He would be okay with it! **R1.22,23**

The Church... Left its pathway when we stopped proclaiming a clear word to speak “more relevantly” to a needy society! Ours is a narrow pathway... **Mt7.14** Our relevance is the power of God that calls every person to decide if He is God! **1K18.21 Mk10.17ff** Called to restricted walk to strategically work to rescue the Lost! **R10.13-16 1C9.22,10.23,33** We must accurately communicate man’s needs...And the way to salvation for the generations at risk!

3 Stories... Young man who has grown up in the image of his father... Young woman who has learned the value of life from her mother... Young men harassed for not wanting the things the world has to offer...

We are failing to pass on faith that’s real, that works in the world! Because the “world” is overcoming our faith, our kids don’t see it as a value in the world!

The answer...

A church that screams for true values!

A church that teaches the truth about life temporary – life hereafter!

A church that paves the pathway of righteousness for the generations!

A church – of people like you and me – willing to be, and stay, different!