

# VISION

WHAT WE LONG TO SEE GOD DO



BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

## INTRODUCTION

We serve an infinite, all-powerful, and earth-shaking God (He. 12:26). A God who created our world and redeemed our souls. This God has done marvelous works throughout human history (Ps. 75:1). Yet we admit that we are often complacent. We don't expect Him to do wonderful things. We don't ask Him to shake our lives.

This vision, then, is a plea to God and a spur to us. We will pray for great things; we will expect great things; we will work for great things because we serve a great God (Ps. 135:5-6).

***We long to see God save, satisfy, and send people in Jesus' name.***

## SAVE SINNERS

Paul wrote that no one is right with God; every person has gone their own way (Ro. 3:10-12). As a result, every human is condemned under God's judgment (Ep. 2:1-3). We understand, then, that we live near and talk to people every day who are under the wrath of God (Jn. 3:36). Both in Brevard and beyond, there are sinners of all kinds. Those who are religious, and those who are irreligious. Those adhering to a moral code, and those who have thrown it off. Those who think they've met Jesus, and those who've never heard His name. We know that Christ is the Savior for sinners of all kinds. He has saved us, and we long to see others find hope and help in Him.

We long for Bethany to be a group of believers who boldly and joyfully speak of Jesus. We envision brothers and sisters inviting unbelievers into their homes. We envision people hearing of Jesus and believing in His name. We envision converts baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:18-20). We envision people of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and life situations added to our church family. And we long for God to do these things through us. He is the Father who draws (Jn. 6:44), the Son who redeems (Ga. 4:4-5), the Spirit who transforms (Jn. 6:63). So we will beg Him to do these things; we will labor with His strength; and we will praise His name as He uses us to accomplish them.

## SATISFY FOLLOWERS

Our salvation is not merely a rescue; it is an invitation. The God who made us calls us into fellowship with Him. Because He is the happiest Being in the universe, fellowship with Him results in lasting peace (Jn. 14:27) and boundless joy (Ps. 16:11). God does not merely offer humans *a gift*; He offers humans *himself* (Jn. 17:20-23). Experiencing the God of heaven results in deep contentment which is found nowhere else (Ps. 34:8; 119:103). This satisfaction grows richer as a follower of Jesus walks with Him, is filled with His Spirit, and learns more of the glories of God.

We long to see Bethany be a group of disciples who count Jesus better than anything this world has to offer. We desire to see our church filled with people delivered from addictions and life-dominating habits. We envision believers immersed in the Word and reading it with others. We envision our church devoted to prayer and desperately seeking God's face. We envision hope-filled hearts even through pain and loss. We envision flourishing marriages and thriving singles. We envision joyful singing on the Lord's day. We envision brothers and sisters unified in essential things, and loving each other in disagreement. In short, we envision a people living in joyful freedom. God has delivered us from sin (Ro. 7:24-25); Jesus lives His life in us (Ga. 2:20); the Spirit of God empowers us (Ro. 8:11). So we will beg Him to fill our vision; we will pray for Him to satisfy our hearts; and we will pursue Him as the treasure of our souls.

## SEND MESSENGERS

The saving God is a sending God. He sent His Son to die for sinners (1 Jn. 4:14). He sends His Spirit to all who believe in the Son and become sons of God (Ga. 4:6). And now, the Son sends His followers to continue the work of proclaiming His name (Jn. 20:21). The God of heaven saves sinners and satisfies them in Jesus so that they cannot help but speak the good news about Him.

In one sense, then, every follower of Jesus is sent by Him to make other followers. He has commissioned each of us to make disciples as we go through life. However, the church also identifies and sends Gospel messengers to other places (Ac. 13:2-3). We long to see God launch messengers from Bethany into other parts of our country and the far reaches of our world.

We envision our grown children going to distant shores. We envision pastors and elders equipped. We envision churches planted in Gospel-destitute places. We envision foreign missionaries commissioned. We envision unreached peoples hearing the name of Jesus (Ro. 15:20-21). We envision light dawning on those currently sitting in darkness (Is. 9:2). The God of heaven has placed His glorious message in broken pots like us (2 Co. 4:7); He has made us the fragrance of Christ to spread His name everywhere (2 Co. 2:14-15). We are not up to this task (2 Co. 2:16), but we serve a God who puts His power on display in our weakness (2 Co. 4:7). Therefore, we will ask; we will labor; and we will look for Him to accomplish His marvelous works through us.

## SUMMARY

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