

“2020 Vision”

Mission Reminder Sunday – 2019

March 24, 2019

2 Parts of “Mission Reminder Sunday – 2019”

- What are we doing? (Message)
- How are we going about doing what we are doing? (Meeting)

A Game Plan Matters!

A Strategic Ministry What We Are Pursuing What We Seek Protection From

Colossians 1:24 - 2:23 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions **for the sake of his body, that is, the church,**²⁵ of which **I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,**²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ **Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.**²⁹ **For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.**

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,² that their **hearts may be encouraged,** being **knit together in love,** to **reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery,** which is Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.⁴ I say this in order **that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.** ...

Alive in Christ

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith**, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it **that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world**, and not according to Christ.

Let No One Disqualify You

¹⁶ Therefore **let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.** ¹⁷ **These are a shadow** of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ **Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,** ¹⁹ **and not holding fast to the Head**, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰ ...why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to **regulations**—²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to **human precepts and teachings?** ²³ These have indeed **an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value** in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Paul highlights some sobering future possibilities that could await the church

- **That the church could be “deluded” by “plausible arguments”—v. 4**
- **an environment could be created of ‘passing judgment’—** dominated by secondary matters ('shadows')—
- **there could be a day of misdirected worship and energies and activities—**“insisting on asceticism and worship of angels... detailing of visions...

- *a religious setting that is "not holding fast to the Head"*
- *a 'church' that has "an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but are of NO VALUE"*

Mission Reminder Sunday is about Reviewing Our STEWARDSHIP ...Our Toil & Struggle with all His energy that He works in us! ...Because it makes a difference!

We Are Duplicators NOT Originators

1 Cor 15:1-3 "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you ...³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received"

1 Cor 11:23 "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you..."

1 Cor 11:2 "...maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you."

Gal 1:11-12 "...the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Thess 4:1-2 "... as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus."

2 Thess 2:15 "...stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter."

tradition = parádosis. 1. This word for 'tradition' means 'what is transmitted'

'traditions' = g3860. παραδίδωμι paradidōmi; to surrender, i.e. yield up, intrust, transmit: — to give into the hands (of another), to give over into (one's) power

"2020 Vision"

2019... This year we close out another DECADE of our lives!—

The Rituals & Routines of Church Ownership

"7 Hills to Die On" *(Better Suits Paul's tone in Colossians)*

"A Hill to Die On" = a war terminology referring to a strategic vantage point that was so important that those defending it would die there before giving up on it

Table of Contents—Stewardship Questions for the Next Decade

- (1) Prayer** ...Did You Secure the Hill of Prayer?
...the activity of personal and corporate dependence on God and communion with God that brings forth God's purpose on earth as it is in heaven
- (2) The Word** ...Did You Defend the Hill of the Ministry of the Word of God?
...the cornerstone activity of the church in making disciples features learning, teaching, preaching, and equipping with a knowledge of the Scriptures and sound doctrine
- (3) The Spirit** ...Did You Diligently Pursue the Ministry of the Holy Spirit?
...the empowering and manifest presence of the Holy Spirit who is being poured out in these last days and who makes God's people distinct by imparting God's nearness, God's gifts, God's fruit, God's transformation, and God's kingdom coming among us.
- (4) Fellowship** ...Did you Contend for the Hill of True Biblical Fellowship?
...the community, care, friendship, and family that was intended for the covenant people of God, that is based on the common ground we share at

the foot of the cross, the love and forgiveness we share in Christ, and the body ministry of serving one another

(5) Evangelism ...Did you Toil for the Hill of Evangelism?

...a life lived outwardly that prioritizes the spread of the gospel and the making of converts into our families, our community, our nation, and the world ...did you fight to "GO" and not just stay

(6) Holiness ...Did you Strive for the Hill of Holiness?

...to resist conformity to this fallen world, to renew our minds and lifestyles to conform to the image of Christ, to experience liberty from the control of sin, and to be a distinct people who image the glory of God in our lives and in our worship of Him

(7) Leadership ...Did you Take the Hill of Raising Up Leaders?

...a routine of identifying, equipping, and deploying those whom God has gifted and called to lead the body of Christ into fulfilling God's purpose in the end times until Jesus returns