

# Vision - Things to Come

I've lived a good life. I've had lots of experiences, many great ones, many not so great ones. I can look back and see events my life that caused me to grow in maturity. I remember others where I failed to learn from them at the time but looking back I see the lesson clearly now.

I've often reflected on things I have done and wish I knew then what I know now. I've wished I knew Jesus as a child and how much more I could have done for the Kingdom if I'd known Him sooner. But my past has played a huge role in making me who I am today.

Many of the things I've been through in my life help me to help others. Many things I've experienced remind me of my need for a Savior, because I can see what my life was like without Him. So to look upon the past and wish things could have been different will not get you anywhere. Your past is important.....BUT it's not as important as your future!

## **Philippians 3:12-14 (HCSB)**

12 Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, 14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

What a good WORD! "I may not be perfect or sinless, but I make every effort to be because Jesus has taken hold of me" That's transformation!

If Jesus is your Lord and Savior then He has forgiven your sins, the price has been paid...past, present, and future. Halleluiah! But to keep on sinning with no regard for Jesus is like a slap in the face. In fact if you are not making an effort to rid your life of sin, you aren't saved!

I say that in confidence because if you are saved then Jesus has taken hold of you. And just like Paul, if Jesus has a hold on you, even though you are not perfect, you make every effort to be! This is where we've gotta be church.....seeking righteousness!

I may not be sinless but I'm gonna be, it's my goal! Amen? Last week we looked at identity, what God says we are. God says that His children are holy, righteous, redeemed, saints! That's who we are in His eyes because when He looks at us, He sees His Son. We are IN CHRIST!

This Vision series started with our church mission and vision statements, what we are here to do and how we plan to do it. Then we shifted to prophetic vision and looked at Foundational Characteristics, or the qualities God sees in the church. Then last week was Identity, who God says we are as a church.

Today as we conclude the series, we are going to look at the “Things To Come”! This is exciting church! God has big plans for you and for this church!

Back to the text.....We make every effort to be righteous, sinless because Jesus has a hold of us. We have yet to fully obtain it.....BUT

**Philippians 3:13b-14 (HCSB)**

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, 14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

In the pursuit for being like Jesus.....Paul says forget what is behind.....the past is in the past.....Now, I know earlier I said how important your past it, and especially the lessons you have learned from your experiences.....SO should we remember them or forget them?

When Paul says forget what is behind, he is not saying get a memory zapper...

The Greek word used here for forget is epilanthanomai (e-pē-lān-thā'-no-mī) meaning to neglect, no longer care for/about. It doesn't mean the wiping of your memory but that you no pay no attention to it, or don't dwell on it!

As a believer you can't be focused on the past.....it's biblical! When Lot and his family were saved from Sodom and Gomorrah, they were told, don't look back.....Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt! To look back means to consider, to pay attention to.

This was a woman being saved from judgement and death but she was so concerned with what was behind her, she didn't see the life giving future that God had for her! If you are looking forward to what God has for you.....you can't give the past your attention!

**Luke 9:62 (HCSB)**

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

It doesn't matter what was back there, good or bad, we must refuse to rely on the past whether they are achievements or failures..... when we are distracted by the past it cripples your present and your future!

The Kingdom is moving forward.....always! God's Kingdom is a kingdom of promise and a kingdom of progress!

This is why forgiveness is so important, unforgiveness causes you to dwell in the past. Forgiveness allows you to move forward! Today can be your day to let go of the past.....

Forget what is behind and reach forward to what is ahead! ----- The things to come!

You know our God is a God of promise..... a God of blessing..... a God of hope

If you have ever felt stuck with no hope for change or blessing, consider some of the heroes of the faith...

Abram - old man, 99 years old, no son to carry on the family name. His wife was barren, This is past the point where people were living to be 800-900. 100 was old, past child bearing years. Imagine the disappointment, no child, not even the hope of one. But God sends an angel to promise things to come! You will have a son.....and they DID! You will be a father of many nations.....and he IS!

David - young boy, shepherd, brothers are soldiers, he's a nobody. But God sends a prophet to tell David of the things to come! You will be king.....and he WAS!

Joseph - young boy, loved and favored by his father but because of that he's hated by his brothers, But God sends him multiple dreams to promise the things to come! You will be great in all the land, even your family will bow down to you.....and he WAS! In the meantime he was sold into slavery, falsely accused and imprisoned, abandoned by family.....but he forgot what was behind and reached forward to what was ahead!

All of these instances.....prophetic vision.....words from the Lord concerning the things to come! God can send an angel, a prophet, a dream, or anything else but when God speaks....you must focus on what lies ahead or you will make it there.....

Abram, David, Joseph.....all looked forward. They had plenty of reason to look back, to think about what they had been through, to dwell on what had been done to them, but it would have meant death.....the death of hope.....instead they chose the promises of God....they chose life!

Do you believe that God has plans for you? If you believe that...then you believe that God has good things to come for you because He is good! This can't just be a statement that we make it's something we've got to believe because Jesus has a hold of us!

**Psalm 100:3 (HCSB)**

3 Acknowledge that Yahweh is God.  
He made us, and we are His —  
His people, the sheep of His pasture.

God has good plans for you, He made you and then if you came to Jesus He made you NEW....to do good works that He predestined for you to do! Your future is bright because of the things to come!

The future of this church is bright because of the things to come! God has told us our mission, He has told us the foundational characteristics that He desires, He has told us who we are, and it's all to prepare us for the things to come!

In the natural....we have received some pretty crazy words about the things to come. But our God is a big God, His plans for us are big.

I was recently at a memorial service and a young lady was speaking about the man who had past. He was like a father to her and she made this statement about him "when I dreamed big, he told me to dream bigger"

What an encouragement! Don't let your dreams be limited....odds are, God has something even greater for you, something that may not make sense now....but it will! These are the things to come!

First I want to share some things God has put upon our heart, no details, no plans, no specifics, just dreams.....I believe they are things to come!

## Works/Services

- Conferences- especially men's and women's
  - There have been multiple dreams by multiple people that have seen women in this congregation ministering to a room full of women....IT IS TO COME!
  - I have a vision of the men of this town, regardless of church affiliation, gathering in this church for 2 days of teaching and training, with the pastors of this community leading it
- Events out where the people are
  - This has been spoken as something we need to do but also as something that WILL HAPPEN, it will be the stimulant for church growth
  - I'm waiting.....God may speak these ideas to YOU.....be listening! IT IS TO COME!
- Multiple prayer meetings focused not only on FRC but nationally and internationally
  - What we have on Tuesday nights is wonderful, we are blessed with a great leader in Natasha, and we have some phenomenal prayer warriors. We have seen the fruit of this ministry....thank you Jesus!
  - I long for the day when we have prayer meetings galore...regular meetings, special meetings like we had for Eric.....we are a house of prayer....IT IS TO COME!
- One church in St. Elmo
  - The body of Christ....His church....in unity! The Church of Saint Elmo (CSE)
  - Some of you have heard me say this before and it sounds ridiculous.....but in a vision, I have seen it....IT IS TO COME!
- Youth Center

- One place, run by believers from multiple churches, headed by one person....Jesus.....a safe place for kids to hang out.....leaders who will build relationships with them, love them, pray for them....
- I'm believing for a building.....as a gift.....IT IS TO COME!
- Bible school
  - I have seen this building being used to train up people and send them out into full time ministry....
  - I saw people from this congregation teaching classes, I saw one of them as the "principal or director" of the school.....we have people with the ability and gifting to teach.....IT IS TO COME!
- Meeting specific, tangible needs
  - God uses His people to bless others. Peter tells us to be a blessing because it is what you are called to do (and in turn you will inherit a blessing - 1 Pet 3:9)
  - We have seen Him use people to meet needs in the lives of others....**(share Joyce Meyer dish towel story)**. He is going to use us in that capacity.....IT IS TO COME!

Some of these things seem like they are too big for me and too big for us.....but they are not too big for our God!

- 13,220
  - Cheryl Jackman says this number represents a population of people
- The property of the church will encompass all the open ground around us and will go all the way to the interstate
- A constant presence in our community

## Things to Come...

Outpouring of the Holy Spirit overflowing from the top down  
 Directed by Jesus - He is pointing to our church  
 Jason singing during worship  
 (A vision)

It is already raining. Many umbrellas are blocking the rain. A wind is coming to remove the umbrellas (religious spirits, offense, unbelief)  
 (Word given by a Boy from Texas at Onething - Dec. 2011)

God himself is turning the fallow ground with His hand.  
 Fall is a significant season  
 Rain if coming, downpours  
 Can get wet or put up umbrellas to block the rain

(Word given by Daniel Norris at Collision - Summer 2013)

Shift in the atmosphere  
Storm clouds  
Clouds full  
Raining down  
Healing rain blessing  
Lighting  
Fear and reverence of the Lord  
Rivers of blood will flow

(Prophesied in this church - February 2013)

Wide open land - churches

Storm clouds - lightning (God's Glory) strikes hitting area churches, hadn't hit our church yet  
(I saw this wide open land... no significant or discernible landmarks with the exception of  
churches sprinkled here and there...  
Storm clouds passing, glory you could say, and the power of God... lightning... revival  
was hitting some of the churches... had not yet hit us... but I felt God wanted to...)

(Dream)

Walls crack and fall  
Deep waters - baptism of saturation  
Sponge - flood of rain  
Preparation for war  
All people drawn in like a magnet  
Walls, piles of concrete - piles of powder  
No more walls  
(Prophesied in this church)

Hard times, economics, financial troubles  
Emotional - death  
Remember Him - remain in Him  
Steadfast - press in, press on  
God sees our hearts, hard times are coming, stay steadfast. God will walk us through it - take  
His hand  
(Spoken by a lady who came to a Saturday Night Service)

Revival rain downpours over Freedom Reigns. Roads all flooded. Had to stay a very long time  
(Dream)

Harvest - golden ripe wheat field to the west, sun shining on it - gold, wheat is waving in the  
wind

(Prophesied in this church)

Pastor Tim and Kristin having strong influence in the community  
(a knowing given - Dec. 2015)

There is going to be division brought.

No more fence riders.

God says, "There will be distinction made between those really seeking Me, those really after My heart and the ones who are not."

Instruction - Decide which side of the fence you are on because a great wind is getting ready to come along and knock you off. The side to which you are teetering is where you will fall for good.

(A word given - 2015)

Spiritual dryness - the church is already in a dry season/state

A wind is coming...

No more fence riders. Will cause division. The wind will knock people off of the fence.

Whichever way the people are leaning is where they will fall. Which way they are leaning with their relationship with God and also in the church.

It's the "last straw" for some. It will cause an awareness of the spiritual dryness, spiritual poverty.

Removes the umbrellas (religious spirits, offense, unbelief) which allows God to rain down on us.

The rain will bring Revival.

Revival comes because we realize how dry we are, how much we need the rains that will revive us. - Fallow Ground

The rain

A downpour flooding of rain

Flood waters overflow from the top (leadership) down.

There have been walls present. We are already working together to remove the walls brick-by-brick (we are weary, tired, and dry). The flood waters come rushing and take out the rest of the walls.

(a word given - Dec. 2015)

These are awesome words of the things to come. Our God is faithful! Pray about these things, anticipate seeing them unfold. I don't think we realize how badly God wants to work through His church! Notice how most of these involved water.....

Water points to Jesus in many ways. It symbolizes a cleansing which only Jesus can give, a new life which Jesus offers, and is used in baptism to showcase the acceptance of Jesus and the denial of self. Jesus is the Living Water. It is He, and He alone, who can quench the thirsty souls in this world.

And if all that isn't enough to get your fire stoked. let's look back at the last verse in our text...

**Philippians 3:14 (HCSB)**

14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

Pursue being Christlike here and now on this earth.....but also that final prize....God's heavenly call....

**Philippians 3:20 (HCSB)**

20 but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

If Jesus is Lord of your life.....you will one day be called home.....to be in His presence, either by death or by His coming.

OH..... HE IS COMING!

There will be a day when the clouds will roll back like a scroll, and we will see Him coming on the clouds.....fire in His eyes.....jealous for His church.....and WE will be given glorified bodies and join Him in battle against the enemy

Not just this spiritual battle we are already in.....but also in the physical. That is the best thing of all that is to come!

Don't miss out on that call to be with the Lord. Today is your day! Your future is bright!