

"To Change the World" /June 3, 2018

Will we have come to our final week on ot the last 5 weeks on the discussion of our Mission Statement. I hope you have been inspired, empowered, and enlightened, as to the mission God has given us as a church! Let's say together...

WDLT, RtL, StF, DoG, CtW!

Video: "This is Discipling"

Your gifts, are God's expression, of His confidence in you, to do His work in & through you!

I hope you believe this! It is true. If were not, then your gifts and mine would be worthless and hidden – never to be used! Thus, we would not ever Change the World!

There are three developmental stages of the Christian life: "This is easy, this is hard, and this is impossible!" Ironically spiritual maturity is achieved during the third stage -- when we come to rely on God most, and on ourselves least. If all things are possible with God, then nothing is possible apart from God. "Without me you can do no-thing..." Rev. RSW

This morning I want to give you 7 principles, found from the pages of scriptures that I believe will unpack for you what changing the world is all about. Before we go there, I want to give you one word...

TRANSFORMATION

What do you think that word means...

All great insights into the way you see the definition of TRANSFORMATION! Let me break it down for you this morning, in a very simple and concise equation...

Trans – On or to the other side. Formation – The action of forming or process of being formed.

Transformation – A marked change in form, nature, or appearance.

Changing the World – bringing transformation to the whole world, the we live in, the know of, and to the people around us!

Rom. 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

2 Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Eph. 4:22-24, "that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Titus 3:5, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..."

Transformation is going from the place of sin and death, to a new life in Christ.

Transformation is allowing God to change the way you think.

Transformation is being move from your place from God, to being called a Son or Daughter of God!

Transformation is hopefully what has happened to you and I in our daily walks with Christ!

Let's Pray...

#1 – Matt. 5:13, "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."

- **In the ancient world, salt had a number of different functions, including serving as a preservative.**
- When applied to the followers of Jesus, this speaks of our calling to be the moral conscience of society. But this high calling comes with a serious warning. As **New Testament Scholar R. V. Tasker explained, if the Lord's followers are "called to be a moral disinfectant in a world where moral standards are low, constantly changing, or non-existent ... they can discharge this function only if they themselves retain their virtue."**
- **We cannot change the world if we ourselves are not changed.**

#2 – Matt. 5:14-16, ¹⁴"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

- It is no surprise that sinful people do sinful things.
- We can't be shocked when the darkness is dark. Instead, **we who claim to be devoted to God must shine the light brightly, and we must do it in deed and not only in word.** This begins with compassionate ministry to the hurting and the poor.

#3 – Rom. 8:31-35, 37-39, ³¹What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³²Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁷No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- It's so easy to put our trust in numbers, as if revolutionary change can only happen when our side is in the majority. But even the secular world knows this is not true.
- As Fidel Castro remarked, "I began revolution with 82 men. If I had to do it again, I'd do it with 10 or 15 and absolute faith. **It does not matter how small you are if you have faith and plan of action (mission).**"
- If that's what Castro could do with a handful of dedicated men, what could God do with them?

#4 – Prov. 15:1, "A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare."

- As the old saying goes, you can win the argument but lose the point (or the person!). Don't let pride or a quick temper dictate your speech (or your online communication). **Step back, get control of your emotions, and reach out rather than attack.** You'll be amazed with the results that you get. (Yes, this is easier said than done, but the rewards are well worth the effort.)

#5 – Is. 40:17 (MSG), "Why, the nations are but a drop in a bucket, a mere smudge on a window. All the nations add up to simply nothing before him — less than nothing is more like it. A minus.

- Evangelist Dr. Michael Brown said, **"Some of the most ferocious, intimidating leaders of history are nothing more than dust and ashes today, and the Iron Curtain, the Bamboo Curtain, and the Berlin Wall all came down in the last generation. As a historian once observed, two thousand years ago, Nero was considered to be the divine emperor while the apostle Paul was a little known Roman prisoner, soon to be beheaded. Who knew that centuries later, people would call their dogs Nero and their sons Paul?"**

#6 - John 16:33 (MSG), "I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

- These words were spoken by Jesus to his disciples shortly before he was betrayed and crucified, and they are as relevant today as ever. Jesus wanted them (and us) to know that no one will be totally exempt from pain or suffering or hardship.
- But, Jesus added, take heart and be at peace. Just as he overcame every obstacle (including death itself!), we his followers can overcome too.
- In other words, **"We shall overcome"** was not just the song of the Civil Rights movement. It is our song too.

- **1 John 5:4**, "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith."

#7 – **Rom. 12:20 – 21**, "²⁰ Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. ²¹ Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

- As **Dr. King famously said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."**
- We must set our goals higher by exposing what is wrong and modeling what is right, not by getting dragged down into the dirt.

Title Slide: This morning if you are in the place where you desire transformation for you, but you know you are far from God...Regardless of what you have smoked, drank, stolen, how you have thoughts, what you have said, no matter what your past looks like... Know this...

Let me tell you the words of the Apostle Paul...

Rom. 5:6-9, ⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

Title Slide – Whether you feel like you have nothing to offer, and that you could never change the world. Now is the time to say yes to Jesus! And begin to know what unconditional love is truly all about... Come join us down here at these altars... Salvation Altar Call... Altar Ministry for Believers...