

plugged into a ministry of the church, to do something meaningful that expresses their God-given talents and gifts.

Finally, the left pane contains the word "**Measure**," which lists the attributes of an "everyday" person who is accomplishing the mission of the church.

The vision frame, for lack of a better term, frames our total ministry. Everything we do should fit within the vision frame. In other words, everything we do should in some way contribute to the overall mission of leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known.



Vision Bible Study:

What is our mission?

## What about you?

1. Where are you in the Map? Do you participate in corporate worship? Are you a regular part of a Sunday School group? Do you have a role in a ministry?
2. What convictions do you have as you read the "Measure" part of the vision frame?
3. Whose responsibility is it to lead the everyday people? Are you ready to consider yourself a person who is leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known?
4. What is the next step for you in your journey?

## As you leave ...

On the day that Larry preaches the Vision messages, the evening service text will be Mark 7:1-13. Read the passage and focus on verse 8, the focal verse of the message.

1. What "traditions of men" could possibly get in the way of fulfilling our mission?
2. What church "essentials" are we unwilling to compromise? Evaluate what you consider to be essentials? Are they related to manmade structures or God-given Scriptural elements?



Explore what the Scripture says about our personal and corporate mission ...

**MISSION**  
LEADING EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO  
LOVE JESUS AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

<p><b>MEASURE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I<sup>3</sup></b></p> <p><i>Involved</i> in personal daily devotion</p> <p><i>Invested</i> in people and ministry</p> <p><i>Intentional</i> in connecting to the unchurched</p>	<p>"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law."</p> <p>Proverbs 29:18 NIV</p>	<p><b>MOTIVES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E<sup>6</sup></b></p> <p><i>Engage</i> - in worship and community</p> <p><i>Empower</i> - leadership to use spiritual gifts</p> <p><i>Expand</i> - influence in community and beyond</p> <p><i>Excel</i> - in every ministry area</p> <p><i>Evaluate</i> - the simplicity of our process and structure</p> <p><i>Ensure</i> - Biblical authority behind all we do</p>
---	--	---



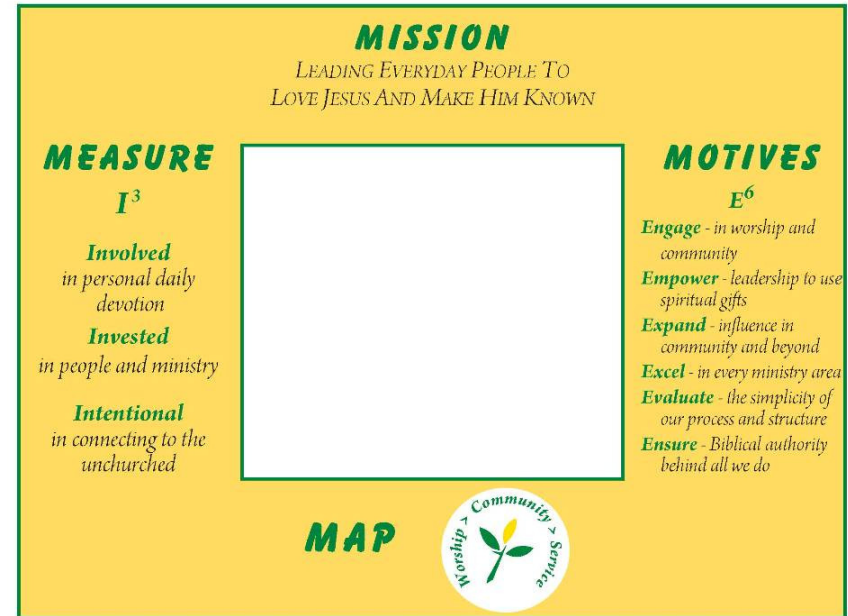
A few weeks ago, Dori and I were driving to Memphis. We left in a light rain around 7:00 a.m. and headed north on Interstate 55. After about two hours of driving, the windshield wipers suddenly intersected in the middle of my line of vision and stuck together ... clunk ... that's right. They just met in the middle of the windshield and stuck together while we're driving 70 miles per hour in a driving rain. My first reaction was that a bird had struck us and had gotten stuck to the windshield. After a few seconds, though, I realized my wipers were the lone problem. I pulled over, got them unstuck, and tested them. The left one, the one in my sightline, would still work. So, I, now soaking wet, got back into the car and kept driving with the aid of only one wiper.

*Sometimes situations happen in churches that block their sightline to their destination ... Do you want to be a part of a church sidelined by petty issues?"*

After a few miles, the rain stopped, so I turned off my only working wiper. Well, guess what? After a few more miles, the rain began pouring down again. When I turned on the wiper knob again, **neither** wiper worked. I don't know which was worse - driving with them stuck together in front of me or driving with no wipers at all. The short ending to the story is that they were both just simply loose, a fact I discovered at a gas station in Winona, Mississippi.

What's the point of the story? Here's the point: when those wipers got stuck, I couldn't see where I was going, and seeing where you're going when driving a motorized vehicle is **very** important. Driving with unclear vision is just not safe. However, just as continuing to travel down an unclear path can be physically disastrous, going down an unclear spiritual path can be both personally and corporately disastrous, too.

Take a look at what we call our "Vision Frame" below.



(NOTE: Larger copies of the Vision Frame are available.)

As you look, you see that the word "**Mission**" is at the top. That part is self explanatory. Obviously, that's our mission statement, and we have already discussed that part of the frame.

The right pane has the word "**Motives.**" The words listed under that section are our core values, or the ideals that we consider important when determining how we "do" church.

The bottom pane contains the word "**Map,**" which shows how people move through our process. Generally, we see that people move clockwise from worship to community to service. In other words, people typically first attend a worship service. Then we encourage them to "move" to community by becoming involved in a Sunday school small group Bible study. The final frontier involves service because we want all members to "move" toward getting

know what's coming. Let's all say it together now: "Everyday people loving Jesus and making Him known."

People grasped that phrase very quickly because it really did capture who we are as the church. In the last few months, as a staff, we've been led to tweak that phrase a little to capture even better the mission of the church. Here's the new version: "Leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known." Not a whole lot different is it? Why the change? Think about it before you continue reading ... Ok. What's the difference? What do you immediately notice? I hope you notice that it's a little more focused on what we **do** instead of who we **are**. A mission statement is about **action**. The "tweak" points us to what the action is. It is about **leading** the "everyday people ..."

*"The goal of our church ... is leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known." Everything we do ... is related to that one goal.*

If we know what we are to **do**, we can then construct parameters on the **how**. Think about the first question posed in the introductory story. What is the goal? The answer to that question would begin like this: "The goal is to ..." Try to answer that question with our previous mission statement. It doesn't work, does it?

So now ... if someone were to ask you what the mission of the church is, you can say, "The goal of our church, the one, most important goal, is leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known." Everything we do, program, schedule, purchase, and ponder is related to that one goal.

## Point to Ponder

What is your role at First Baptist Church Summit in helping reach the goal of leading everyday people to love Jesus and make Him known?

Sometimes situations happen in churches that block their sightline to their destination. Here are a few of those "stuck wipers": poor planning, unclear direction, minimal commitment, troublemakers, traditions, and selfishness (on the part of church members or staff). I'm sure you could mention others.

Do you want to be a part of a church sidelined by petty issues? In contrast, let's set a direction aided by the Holy Spirit and get on the same page together. Otherwise, we are going to lose sight of our destination, we are going to encounter problems much greater than we ever wanted, and we are going to become distracted from the main goal. But, you ask, what is the main goal? And once we know it, how do we accomplish it? What will motivate us to accomplish it? How can we tell if we are progressing toward accomplishment?

Today, let's journey together to ensure we all know where we are headed and to evaluate our current role in helping the church progress in that direction. To do that, we need revelation from God. We need a common vision. Let's travel together to discover that vision.

## Study Questions

1. What is revelation (vision-KJV)?
2. What do we need in order to have revelation (vision)?
3. When there is no revelation (vision), who does it affect?
4. What is the result of no revelation (vision) on the people?



### COMMENTARY ON THE PASSAGE

The familiar KJV "where there is no vision" is misleading. The word "vision" is the **revelation** (ḥāzôn) a prophet receives. Also, in the KJV translation, the phrase "the people perish" does not refer to unsaved **people** dying in sin. The verb pāra` means **to cast off restraint**, so the verse is stating that without God's Word people abandon

themselves to their own sinful ways. On the other hand, keeping (obeying) God's **Law** (cf. 28:4, 7) brings happiness.



### **PASSAGE OVERVIEW**

**29:18a** – This part of verse 18 (as stated in the commentary) means that without God's Word, people abandon themselves to their own sinful ways. Nothing can substitute for the Bible as the source for growth in righteousness in an individual or a church. The Word of God must be central. Many Christians possess the Bible, many profess the Bible, many even read the Bible occasionally, but if it is not the daily filter by which Christians live their lives, it is not making a difference. Further, if we do not allow the Bible to speak to our everyday actions, becoming spiritually mature is impossible. We can actually do more harm than good to the Kingdom if we claim to be Christians but exhibit non-Christian behavior. As James 2:17 states, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." If your daily actions do not regularly reflect Christlike discipleship, you are either spiritually immature, experiencing a disobedient rut, or simply unsaved. Question: Does it bother you when your actions dishonor Jesus?

**29:18b** – While unhappiness can result in a Christian whose life includes a daily absence of God's Word, happy is the one who "keeps the law." Therefore, is the path to happiness directed to keeping a set of commandments? If so, which commandment is the most important one to keep? In Matthew 22:37, Jesus responds to this exact question when He states that to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" is the greatest commandment, followed by the second greatest commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Happy is the person who loves God and his fellow man. Isn't that what the Bible teaches in a nutshell? So it follows: Want to

be unhappy? Disregard the Word. Want to be happy? Internalize and live out the Word.



### **LET'S BE SPECIFIC**

#### **Personal Application to Proverbs 29:18:**

Make the Word of God a part of your daily mental diet. Read it - not so you can check it off like you check off an item on your grocery list and not so you can feel better that you have spent "time" with God. No, read it so you can face your day, live it, and come home to envision a smile on the

Father's face because you've honored Him that day! Will you fail? Yes. Some days you will fail miserably. On those days, claim the Word of God again. Claim His promise that He forgives when we confess and repent (1 John 1:9). Claim His promise that He is a God of restoration (Jeremiah 15:19). Claim His promise that He'll use your imperfections to help you identify with and minister to someone else (John 9:2).

Decide on a plan of action to grow in a "head-and-heart" knowledge of the Bible. Find a reading plan. Buy a one year Bible. Decide to study, to really study, a particular book or passage for a period of time. Decide to memorize a passage of scripture per week for one month. Decide to pursue God in holiness through soaking in His Word. Take it slow and take it a bite at a time. If you miss a day, pick it back up the next. If you miss a week, start anew on a Monday. Keep at it. Remember, "Blessed is he who keeps the law." But whatever you do - make a plan and do it!

*Decide on a plan of action to grow in a "head-and-heart" knowledge of the Bible. ... Keep at it.*

#### **Corporate Application to the passage:**

A few years ago when Pastor Larry first came to Summit, he assembled a few laymen and women to create a phrase to embody our mission at FBC Summit. Okay. You