

2 Timothy.

Intro: rehash - we are in the middle of a 3-part series of vision for our church, summarized by

Enjoy Jesus and help others to do the same.

Helping Others Enjoy Jesus

(pray)

above anything in this life...

context

We are called to enjoy Jesus.

This is what we spoke about at the beginning of our series two weeks ago...

face/Christ, Deut, 2 Pet, Ps - replete

- We are to make Jesus the true source and center of our joy. How?¹
- It is not a matter of feeling anything—it is a matter of acting according to truth
 - And in doing so, we are able to enjoy all things more, because: we are not looking for ultimate joy and fulfillment in those things
 - But also, so that anything that challenges our sense of well-being is transcended by knowing Jesus

We enjoy Jesus by acting according to truth, seeking and following.

We are called to enjoy Jesus in relationship.

Trinity. Image of God. Good things experienced more deeply when reflected and shared.

We are called to teach others how to do the same.

I've chosen this text because all elements of our vision are beautifully incapsulated in it.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 (HCSB)

You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

what you have heard from me (nothing new)

commit to faithful men

- teach other's how to enjoy Jesus like you are (in leisure, in suffering, etc)

Our culture is consumeristic

does this ever bleed into church life?

We can be shallow and/or spread too thin in our relationships.

We sometimes want results at the expense of people.

Fear of being hurt = isolation

The effects of adapting to the surrounding spirit of the age:

Those who are unaffiliated (atheist, agnostic, or “nothing-in-particular”) is increasing.²

Not shocking. This is the trend. As Xianity is losing popularity with society, we will lose those who have not been taught how to enjoy and follow Jesus in all circumstances.³

“One important factor behind the growth of the religiously unaffiliated is generational replacement, the gradual supplanting of older generations by newer ones.”⁴ - Pew Research Forum

59% of 18-29 yr. olds w/xian background have dropped out of regular attendance⁵

Big churches with bumping youth groups are not the norm.

This is normative for our context: “nones” are on the rise *because the faith that has been handed down to the saints⁶ has not been faithfully committed to them.*

Paul calls for a deep investment⁷

- by calling Timothy to commit and teach others

who are “others”? we can at least say,

- non-churched (Matthew 28)
- churched (in 2 Peter 1:12-15, Peter considers it right to invest into people who are already established in the faith.)
 - Reminder what is the mission of Reality?
 - **To make disciples.**⁸ Not unique...ancient mandate by Christ.
 - there should also be a sense in our minds that we have a calling to a select few in a special way
- “faithful men” (Paul to Timothy)

Disciples are disciple-makers

Faithful men (fewer)

- not *simply* shotgunning on the street corner, but *devoting* yourself to a few that will carry on the legacy of what you teach them.
- sponges that will soak up the juice!

who will be able to teach others also (reproduction)

So discipleship is not just helping others to enjoy Jesus, but teaching others to help others to enjoy Jesus.

We must look for *reproduction*, not simply *transmission*.⁹

Modern outlook: success in numbers

FCF: the “assembly-line” gives us, not disciples, but numerical measurements that often do little more than stimulate our sense of self-worth

Paul’s outlook: success in depth

We build a pond (Paul is digging a well)

Building a well takes self-denying commitment

insta-culture (quick programs, easy buy-in, etc)

commit to (deeper)

Illustration: Cuckoo clocks

- young American entrepreneur driving from Geneva to Zurich
- prototype to China for mass distribution
- craftsman quickly ran out of answers
- “How do you make that squiggle?”
- “I don’t know. I’ve done it for years. I grew up making these clocks with my father---this is his shop---and it’s just in my blood, I guess.”

Michael Horton

“Christian discipleship is a lot like craftsmanship. It can’t be produced with formulas, principles, and steps. Disciples don’t come off the assembly line. There is no get-spiritual-quick scheme. It takes time, energy, effort, patience, and skill. Certain shared features identify superbly crafted cuckoo clocks, yet each piece is hand crafted, with its own markings. That’s part of the charm ... The transformation does not occur through one-size-fits all formulas but occurs through belonging to a community that immerses us in the drama, doctrine, doxology, and discipleship of “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). It means belonging to the holy commonwealth that passes along habits--many of which cannot be stated explicitly in so many words.”¹⁰ (The Gospel Commission, 158)

Disciples are disciple-makers....

We see this trajectory with Paul...

1. me (Paul)
 2. you (Timothy)
 3. others (?)
- other examples...
- Paul > Priscilla and Aquila¹¹ > Apollos¹²
John > Polycarp > Irenaeus

But I’m messed up! I’m in no shape to make disciples!

How fitting that before this commission, Paul says...

be strong in the grace (that is in Christ Jesus)

this grace is expounded in...

2 Timothy 1:9 (HCSB)

He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

We need grace. AP!

Grace = God’s active power towards us, his sheer love for us, and his presence with us apart from anything we’ve accomplished or deserved.

Paul: Let your strength come from this grace. Feed off of it.

“be strong”

1. (passive) = acted upon by another <-- *God is at work in you...*

We need the Holy Spirit. AP!

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and empowers us by supernaturally impressing the truth of the gospel into our hearts.

By the gospel of grace in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

It is purely a work of God. So what do we do then??

How do we position our relationships with grace/Holy Spirit?

Center your relationship primarily on...*what God has said*

The Word of God (proclaiming, studying, responding)

What you have "heard" from me (2:2)

This centering of relationships on the Word is seen in the Early Church...

Acts 2:41-42 (HCSB)

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.

Let discipleship grow out of the kiln of relationships....

1. community

1. not selective community, but the body of Christ.

1. a 21 yr isn't going to bail another 21 yr old out of life's mess. We need wisdom!

2. sometimes the older you get, the more comfortable you get. We need passion!

"At eighteen our convictions are hills from which we look; at forty-five they are caves in which we hide." - Scott Fitzgerald

2. prayer

1. is your enjoyment of Jesus informing how you pray for one another?

3. baptism

1. do you frequently remember your baptism before the church?

4. reconciliation

1. are you working on relationships to keep Satan from coming between you and others?

5. assembling for worship **AP!**

1. Hebrews 10:23-25 (HCSB)

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near

6. sharing meals together

1. I very much like the expression "breaking bread together," because there the breaking and the giving are so clearly one. When we eat together we are vulnerable to one another. Around the table we can't wear weapons of any sort. Eating from the same bread and drinking from the same cup call us to live in unity and peace.¹³ - **Henri Nouwen**

7. Lord's Supper

1. The unity we experience at the table, made possible by God in Christ.

8. Grief

1. how are you experiencing more of Jesus in the midst of pain and hardship?

9. Leisure

1. how does your relationship with Christ enrich your enjoyment of _____?

Then pass it on through >> discipleship (influenced and following)

who is following you? are you discipling someone?

This is not to be confused with the "shepherding movement"! (or any other wierd hiccup in Xianity we wish would go away)

Discipleship consists of...

PEOPLE ENJOYING JESUS TOGETHER AND HELPING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

Luther: I'm just a beggar showing other beggars where to find bread

Christ = bread

Discipleship = helping others find and feast on the bread of life (Jesus)

You will be tempted to quit or try some new trend.

But trust in the simple directive Jesus handed down and put his blessing on.

Challenge: devote a year to someone.

Yeah, but I barely know how to follow God myself!

Well, start following God in community. And teach others what you've learned.

Someday, someone will come along; commit to them.

A.D. 100 - 20,000 Christians¹⁴ **AP!**

A.D. 300 - 20,000,000 Christians

This often starts one person at a time...

Rob Patterson (eternal reward)

To make disciples, you've got to be one.

Follow Jesus, and follow people who are enjoying Jesus more than you until you enjoy Jesus. Then teach others how to do the same.

Works Cited

- ¹ This articulation of enjoying Jesus was taken from the sermon by Britt Merrick, entitled *Vision and Mission - Part I - Enjoy Jesus*. February 10, 2013. <http://vimeo.com/59361311>
- ² In 2007 Pew Research Center surveys, 15.3% of U.S. adults answered a question about their current religion by saying they were atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular.” The number of religiously unaffiliated respondents has ticked up each year since, and now stands at 19.6%. *The Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life*. Oct 9, 2012. <http://www.pewforum.org/unaffiliated/nones-on-the-rise.aspx#ranks>
- ³ Ed Stetzer. “Since the value of being a Christian is decreasing, so is the population of nominal Christians.” *The Rise of the Nones*. Oct 9, 2012. <http://www.edstetzer.com/2012/10/today-the-pew-forum-released.html>
- ⁴ *The Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life*. Oct 9, 2012. <http://www.pewforum.org/unaffiliated/nones-on-the-rise.aspx#growth>
- ⁵ From a personal conversation with David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group, and author of *You Lost Me*.
- ⁶ Jude 1:3
- ⁷ John MacArthur writes that the calling Paul gives Timothy to commit to a faithful men is “beyond the basic gospel message of salvation, which is to be preached to all who will hear. He is rather talking about the careful, systematic training of church leaders who will teach and disciple other believers in the fullness of God’s Word. This particular ministry is to be selective.” *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 2 Timothy*. p.41
- ⁸ This is the God-given mandate of every church, and is not a unique calling. We have just couched it in a pithy phrase to help us articulate and remember it.
- ⁹ A. Duane Litfin calls Paul’s tactic the “ministry of multiplication.” *2 Timothy*. Ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck. (BKC; Colorado Springs, CO: Cook, 2004). 752. John A. Kitchen comments, “Success in ministry, according to this verse, is measured by two standards. First, the accuracy of the message conveyed to another generation. Second, the ability of next generation to pass this message accurately to yet another generation.” *The Pastoral Epistles for Pastors*. (Woodlands, TX: Kress Christian Publications, 2009) p.343
- ¹⁰ Michael Horton. *The Gospel Commission: Recovering God’s Strategy for Making Disciples*. p.158
- ¹¹ Acts 18:1-2
- ¹² Acts 18:24-26
- ¹³ Henri J.M. Nouwen. *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. p.111
- ¹⁴ Alan Hirsch. *The Forgotten Ways*. p.18