

# Vision Sunday

The background is a dark gray with embossed Celtic knot designs. In the top-left corner, there is a large, intricate knot. In the bottom-right corner, there is a large, stylized knot with a central diamond shape. The text "Vision Sunday" is centered in the middle of the page in a white, sans-serif font.

# Priorities for 2009

Lord willing, we will be...

# I. Faithful to Scripture

The Bible is the Word of God given to teach us about God and how we should live in His world. It is our final authority for all things. It is the 'roadmap' for all that we are, say, and do. God's voice, speaking through it, must make sense of our past and guide our present and future. Tradition, history, and personal experience are all important, yet it is God alone through Scripture who is definitive.

## 2 Timothy 3:14-15a (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15a</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings,

## 2 Timothy 3:15b-16 (ESV)

<sup>15b</sup> which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

## 2 Timothy 3:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

# Matthew 22:29-31 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God:

## Matthew 22:32-33 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” <sup>33</sup> And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

## II. Gospel-Centered

The story of the Bible is redemption: God's amazing plan to restore all things to himself. Often this is referred to as the 'gospel'. The Gospel is the 'good news' that God created the world good, mankind rebelled and thus fell into death and just condemnation, and Jesus came to conquer sin, death, and the devil through his life, death, and resurrection.

All who cry out to God by grace through faith, believing in his death, burial, and resurrection, will be saved (justified). This happens in an instant, yet God's work in a person does not stop there. The on-going aspect of salvation (sanctification) will continue for the rest of a person's life. Therefore, the Gospel is for every day, not just the day you become a Christian.

# 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

# 1 Corinthians 15:4-7 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

# 1 Corinthians 15:8-10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

# 1 Corinthians 15:11-14 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

# 1 Corinthians 15:15-18 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

# 1 Corinthians 15:15-18 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

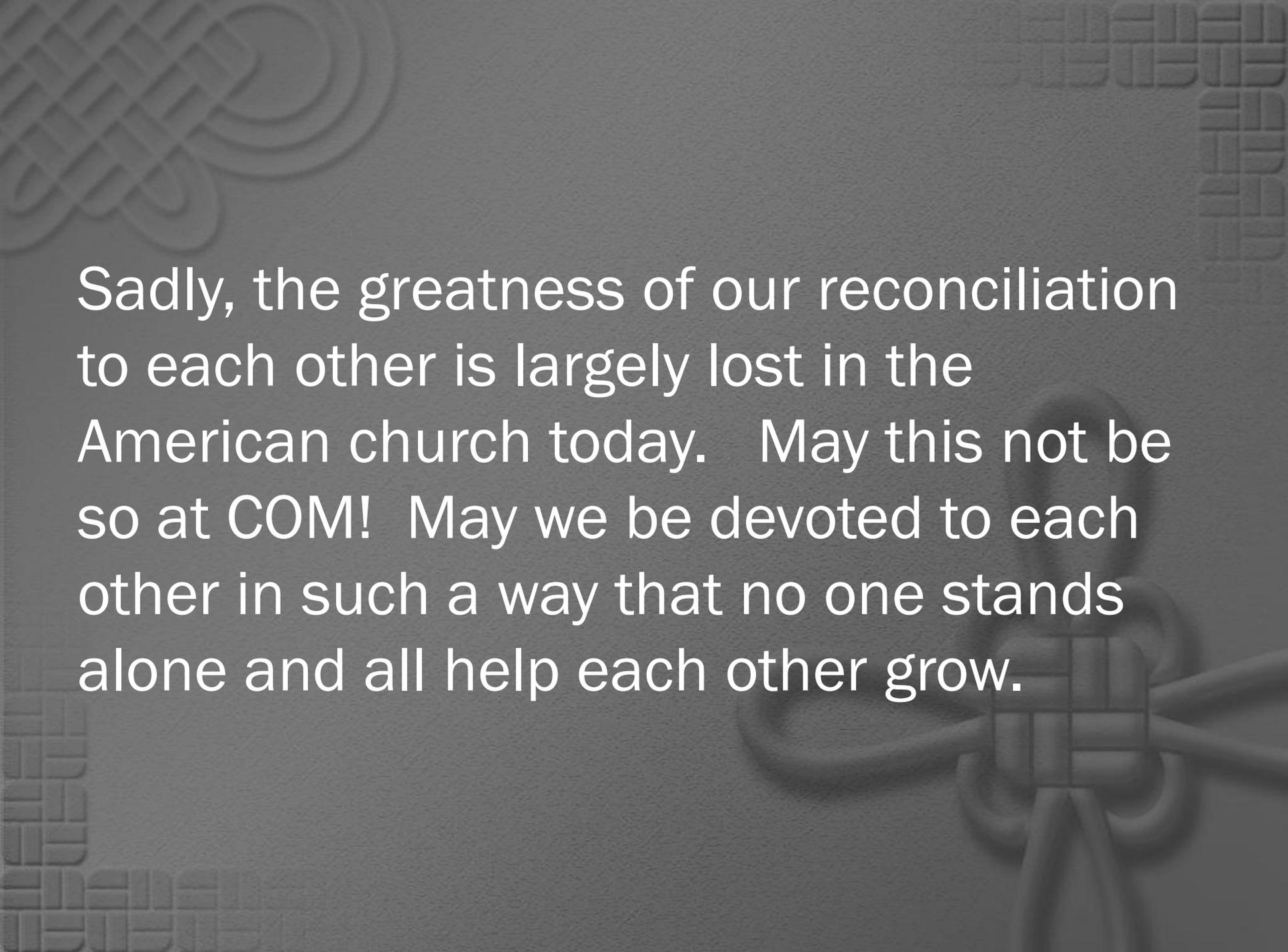
<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

## 2 Timothy 2:8-10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

### III. Devoted to Each Other

The Gospel affects not just our relationship with God but also our relationship with people. People who know Jesus can be in harmony with others who know Jesus. In fact, the Bible speaks of Christians being so intertwined that it uses the words “brothers and sisters” to refer to the depth of our relationships.



Sadly, the greatness of our reconciliation to each other is largely lost in the American church today. May this not be so at COM! May we be devoted to each other in such a way that no one stands alone and all help each other grow.

## Acts 2:42-44 (ESV)

<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

## Acts 2:45-47 (ESV)

<sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

# Galatians 6:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

# Galatians 6:4-5 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup> For each will have to bear his own load.

# IV. Transformation-Minded

The Christian life is a life of progressive holiness. Followers of Jesus are on a path of being supernaturally changed by God in order to live in increasingly Christlike ways. Real change is possible! Our character ought to more and more frequently and robustly reflect the life of Jesus.

# Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

# Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## 2 Corinthians 3:12-14 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.

## 2 Corinthians 3:15-17 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

## 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.



V. Passionately Concerned for  
both Our Immediate  
Community and the World

As a group of believers who have been and are being changed by the Gospel, we cannot help but be moved with compassion for the spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental needs of both our community and the world at large. God has called us to leave a geographical footprint in the Valley.

He has also called us to participate in extending the Gospel around the globe. We yearn to engage people in spiritual conversations, demonstrate the love of Christ through acts of mercy, and live in such a way that God will draw people to salvation through our words and deeds.

# Acts 1:8 (ESV)

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- I. Faithful to Scripture
- II. Gospel-Centered
- III. Devoted to Each Other
- IV. Transformation-Minded
- V. Passionately Concerned for Our Community and the World