12-27-20

**2020: The Year of Vision…**

**Introduction**

* **What did we *see* this year?**
  + Australia had a record 47 Million acres burn in wildfire season.
  + Prince Harry and Megan Markle quit the royal family.
  + An impeachment trial was held for President Trump.
  + The stock market had its worst point drop in a single day ever on Mar 9th.
  + Worldwide riots in response to the killing of George Floyd.
  + Murder hornets made an appearance in Washington state.
  + Massive explosion in Beirut.
  + Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Eddie Van Halen, and Kobe Bryant passed away.
  + The price of gold reached 2K an ounce.
  + The presidential election further highlighted the cultural divide in this nation.
  + We had a toilet paper shortage.
  + The covid-19 pandemic shut down the world.

1 Thessalonians 5:14–22 (ESV)

14And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise prophecies, 21but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22Abstain from every form of evil.

* **What I am choosing to *see***
  + I know how to properly wash my hands now.
  + People are far more considerate about not going out while they are sick.
  + We have taken our digital media to the next level so those that are away, stuck at home, or are sick can still participate.
  + We rediscovered the value of community and camaraderie.
  + We have developed a greater ability to be flexible and understanding while adjusting to consistent changes.
  + People need Jesus.
  + God is in control.
* **Why is it so important to *see* differently than the world?**

John 18:36–38a (ESV)  
36Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” 37Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

1. **What is truth?**
   1. The world is confused 2 Cor 4: 1 – 4
   2. You are a light to guide them to the way Matt 5: 14 – 16
2. **Our king is not of this world…**
   1. Our king has told us to love John 13: 34
   2. Our king has told us to be full of light Luke 11: 34 – 36
   3. Our king brings the light John 12: 46
3. **Hold firmly to our purpose.**
   1. God came to bear witness to the truth John 18: 37
   2. We are here to bear witness to Christ Matt 28: 18 – 19

**Closing**

Philippians 4:4–9 (ESV)

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Response:

What is God speaking to me?

Specifically, how will I obey Him?