**LIBERTY CHURCH, YUKON**

 **Dr. Kevin Clarkson March 14, 2021**

**UPSIDE-DOWN MINISTRY**

To turn an upside-down world right-side up [right-wise = righteous], the Church needs to, once

again, as in Acts 17, turn the world upside down!

But over time, the Church has inversed God’s ways, and become upside-down herself!

Isaiah 55:8

**EPHESIANS 4:4-8, 11-13**

**1. Our Ministry Vision is “Inside-In” (1:18)**

 \* minister = to serve, attend, wait upon another to meet their needs

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give

His life a ransom for many.” NKJV

 \* serving others SHOWS God’s love to them and lets us SHARE God’s love with them

 “Preach the gospel everywhere you go...use words if necessary” – Francis of Assisi

 \* Jesus’ vision (and ours) must be to MINISTER INSIDE-OUT -

**John 4:35-36** Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’?

Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for

harvest! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both

he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. NKJV

 \* Jesus touched people where they HURT, that He might touch their HEART -

 **Matthew 9:35** Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues,

preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among

the people. NKJV

**Acts 10:38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who

went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with

Him. NKJV

 \* find someone(s) you can serve this week OUTSIDE of the church

**2. Our Ministry Circle is Too Small (3:8)**

 \* we are to look after “one another” with our church –

 **Hebrews 3:13; 10:24** but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be

 hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **10:24** And let us consider one another in order to

 stir up love and good works. NKJV

 \* we are to look after people the Lord places in our life and our path -

**Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who

are of the household of faith. NKJV

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another

and to all, just as we do to you, NKJV

 \* we are to go out of our way to serve and share with those outside of Christ -

 **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the

 glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. NKJV

 **Acts 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall

 be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Jusea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” NKJV

 \* find ways to give more of yourself this week to those the Lord brings across your path.

**3. Our Ministry Base is Inverted (v.11-12)**

 \* imagine an upside-down pyramid: unstable, tottering, destined to collapse

 \* imagine a church letting a pastor or staff do all the ministry, evangelism, and serving

 \* Jesus has gifted EVERY MEMBER of His Church with unique ability to serve -

 **Romans 12:6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use

 them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; NKJV

 **1 Corinthians 12:18** But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as

 He pleased. NKJV

 \* God’s leaders DISCIPLE God’s people so “EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER” is the norm –

 **Philippians 3:4** though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may

 have confidence in the flesh, I more so: NKJV

 \* You find fulfilment in your special purpose, people find God’s salvation, the Church grows and

 builds up, and God is glorified –

 **Ephesians 4:16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,

 according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body

 for the edifying of itself in love. NKJV