

# Hope Vision

1. Church is not about pleasing ourselves and may, in fact, result in enduring insults – Romans 15:1-3 (1102)
  - A. Most people today ask, “What can I get from my church?”
  - B. Jesus could have sought out the educated, wealthy and successful but He chose to seek out sinners – Luke 5:27-32 (997-98)
    - 1) Jesus called Mathew (Levi) despite his background and associations
    - 2) Levi’s banquet gathered many undesirables and invited the criticism of the Pharisees
    - 3) Jesus states the first principle of ministry. We are to go to those in need, regardless of background.
  - C. City survey of Kearney at KEFC
  - D. Jesus’ announcement of His ministry speaks to what would be His emphasis – Luke 4:18-21 (996)
    - 1) Jesus quoted from the prophet Isaiah identifying four groups”
      - a. The poor – Economically disadvantaged
      - b. The prisoner – The incarcerated
      - c. The blind – The disabled
      - d. The oppressed – The marginalized
    - 2) Jesus came to fulfill this commission through His ministry and His church that would follow.
2. Hope comes through the Scriptures – Romans 15:4 (1102)
  - A. The Scriptures teach us endurance in the most difficult times
    - 1) The difficulty of finances
    - 2) The difficulty of transience & failure
  - B. The Scriptures provide encouragement
    - 1) God calls us to be faithful, not successful
    - 2) God calls us to love, not be loved
3. This endurance and encouragement builds a sense of unity and acceptance – Romans 15:5-7 (1102)
  - A. As we get our eyes off of ourselves and follow Christ, the result is unity – vs. 5-6
    - 1) Endurance, encouragement and ultimately, hope are all from God
    - 2) Unity is only possible when we all follow Christ. Dissension is the result of personal agendas being more important than following Christ.
  - B. As we see what Christ has done for us, we are accepting of others – vs. 7
    - 1) Acceptance extends the same love we have been shown to others – 1 John 4:10-11, 19-21 (1185)
4. Hope produces joy, peace and even more hope – Romans 15:13 (1103)
  - A. Joy comes from God, not from entertainment or recreation – John 15:11 (1046)
  - B. Peace comes from God, not from the absence of conflict – John 14:27 (1046)
  - C. A future characterized by joy and peace is Hope!