

Thermometers and Thermostats, A Vision Series: Part 1

May 18-19, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- We will look at the Vision Statement through the lens of Thermometers and Thermostats.
 - Can you tell that this world is messed up? That you have issues? Etc?
 - Then you are a thermometer! You can tell the temperature. Hopefully accurately!
 - But, are you an agent of change or just a silent witness?
 - A thermostat can change the temperature! This is what God calls us to do.
 - We don't need angry thermometers. Way too much of that!
 - We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. **Matthew 5:13-16**
 - We are to bear much fruit. **John 15:1-8**
 - How do we go from an angry thermometer to a peaceful thermostat? That is what the Vision Statement is all about!
- 3 Parts of Vision Statement: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out
 - Reach Up: A real relationship with the Living God is available to you!
 - Start your connection through salvation. Say “yes” to Jesus and follow him.
 - Maintain it through your prayer/worship life.
 - Live it through following your calling:
 - First to “be” someone. Rise Up! More next week.
 - Second to “do” something. Reach Out! More week 3.
 - **John 15:5.** Our connection with God leads to our ability to make a difference.
- Today we focus on the “worship” part of Reach Up.
 - In our circles “worship” usually means the song part of the service. That is very incomplete.
 - Look at “Sacred Pathways” list.
 - (You can find this by googling “Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas.”)
 - However, we are going to mostly talk about the music part of the service. ☺
 - Music has been around for millennia in worship.
 - The Psalms for example!
 - A few other examples: **Ephesians 5:19-20, Matthew 26:27-30, Acts 16:23-25.**
 - But we must not miss the Holy part (worship) for the music part!
 - This may be a challenge for you if your “Sacred Pathway” doesn't involve music!
 - I see worship as a type of prayer.
 - What types of prayer are there? Many! But some are: Thanks – like for the food. Intercessory – for a need. To hear – **Luke 12-13.** Praying through – like Jesus as Gethsemane. Etc.
 - I see worship as a mix that's hard to define. We are trying to connect with God in order to love God and receive some impartation from His presence.
- We are going to end the service a little different today, with the song “How Great is Our God.”
 - Some things are better caught than taught. Try to catch worship in a deeper way right now.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!