

acts 2:42-47

vision 20/20



Vision 20/20

Our mandate is to make disciples locally and globally, and to do that we strive to be Christ's church, impact the Valley, and reach the world all for the glory of King Jesus.

Vision 20/20

We exist for the glory of the One who came to rescue us. This means we must live for Him, under His rule, as His people, in obedience to His Word – unashamedly pointing others to Him along the way.

Vision 20/20

Today I want to speak to you about a vision for 2020 that will require that we have 2020 vision.

Acts 2:42–47

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Acts 2:42–47

**44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;
45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.**

Acts 2:42–47

⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Vision 20/20

A person wearing glasses is shown from the side, looking upwards. The background is a hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The overall tone is soft and contemplative.

**A look at the church in its earliest days
can help us keep the main things the
main things.**

Sermon in a Sentence

To be the uncluttered church of Christ: 1) we must be devoted to God's Word (42); 2) we must pursue authentic, Christian community (42); 3) we must worship God together; 4) we must seek the good of our community (43, 47) and the nations (Acts 1:8), and 5) we must expect God to give the increase (47).

Vision 20/20

A person wearing glasses is shown from the side, looking upwards. The background is a hazy sky with several hot air balloons. One balloon is prominent in the upper center, and another is visible on the right side. The overall tone is soft and contemplative.

- 1. We must be devoted to God's Word (42).**

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A person wearing glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The overall tone is soft and contemplative.

The church is a group of people who are characterized by devotion to God's Word.

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A person with dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a bright, hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. One balloon is prominently visible in the upper center, and another is on the right side. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

**The church that treasures Christ
will treasure the Word of Christ.**

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Devotion to the Word means we do not put our feelings, desires, or preferences above what God has said. Rather, we ask the Spirit to shape our feelings, desires, and preferences in accordance with His Word.

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We refuse to compromise on the portions of Scripture that are most at odds with the world because we are not fair-weather fans of the Bible. We treasure the Word because it shows us Christ and His way of life for all His people in every generation.

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A person with dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a soft, hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The overall tone is peaceful and contemplative.

At North Roanoke, we are devoted to God's Word as an expression of our devotion to Christ.

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The background of the slide features a soft-focus photograph of a person's profile on the left, looking upwards. In the sky, several hot air balloons are visible, including a large one with vertical stripes in the upper center and a smaller red one on the right.

To be Christ's church, our common devotion to God's Word must be greater than our devotion to lesser things.

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The background of the slide features a soft-focus photograph of a person's profile on the left, wearing glasses and looking upwards. In the sky, several hot air balloons are visible, including a large one with vertical stripes in the upper center and a smaller one on the right side.

2. We must regularly participate in authentic Christian community (42, 44–46).

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2. We are only able to present our bodies as sacrifices to God when our minds have been renewed.

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The early church was marked by a remarkable togetherness.

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The background of the slide features a soft-focus photograph. On the left side, the back of a person's head and shoulder is visible, with their hair and glasses partially seen. They appear to be looking upwards. In the sky, several hot air balloons are visible, including one with prominent yellow and red stripes in the upper center and another with red and white patterns on the right side. The overall atmosphere is bright and hazy, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

Aside from strong Bible teaching, many churches are missing authentic Christian community.

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A person with long dark hair and glasses is seen from the side, looking towards the sky. In the background, several hot air balloons are visible against a bright, hazy sky. The overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

Fellowship means spiritual oneness, a spiritual partnership, participation, vulnerability and intimacy with one another.

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Our lives must be more than what happens at the building on Sundays if we wish to enjoy the sort of gospel-centered connectedness Christ desires for His people.

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I believe God is calling us to lay down our pride and to be real with one another so Christ might really get all of us.

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The background of the slide is a soft-focus photograph. On the left side, the back of a person's head and shoulder is visible, showing they are wearing glasses. The person appears to be looking towards the right. In the sky, several hot air balloons are visible, including a large one with vertical stripes in the upper center and a smaller one with a red and white pattern on the right side.

3. We must worship God together (43, 47).

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When we are devoted to the Word and to fellowship with one another, we will be terrified at the thought of undermining the awesomeness of the God who has saved and is saving us.

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The church of Jerusalem was “of one mind” (46) and even when they were 5,000 strong, they worshipped together in one place (Acts 5:12).

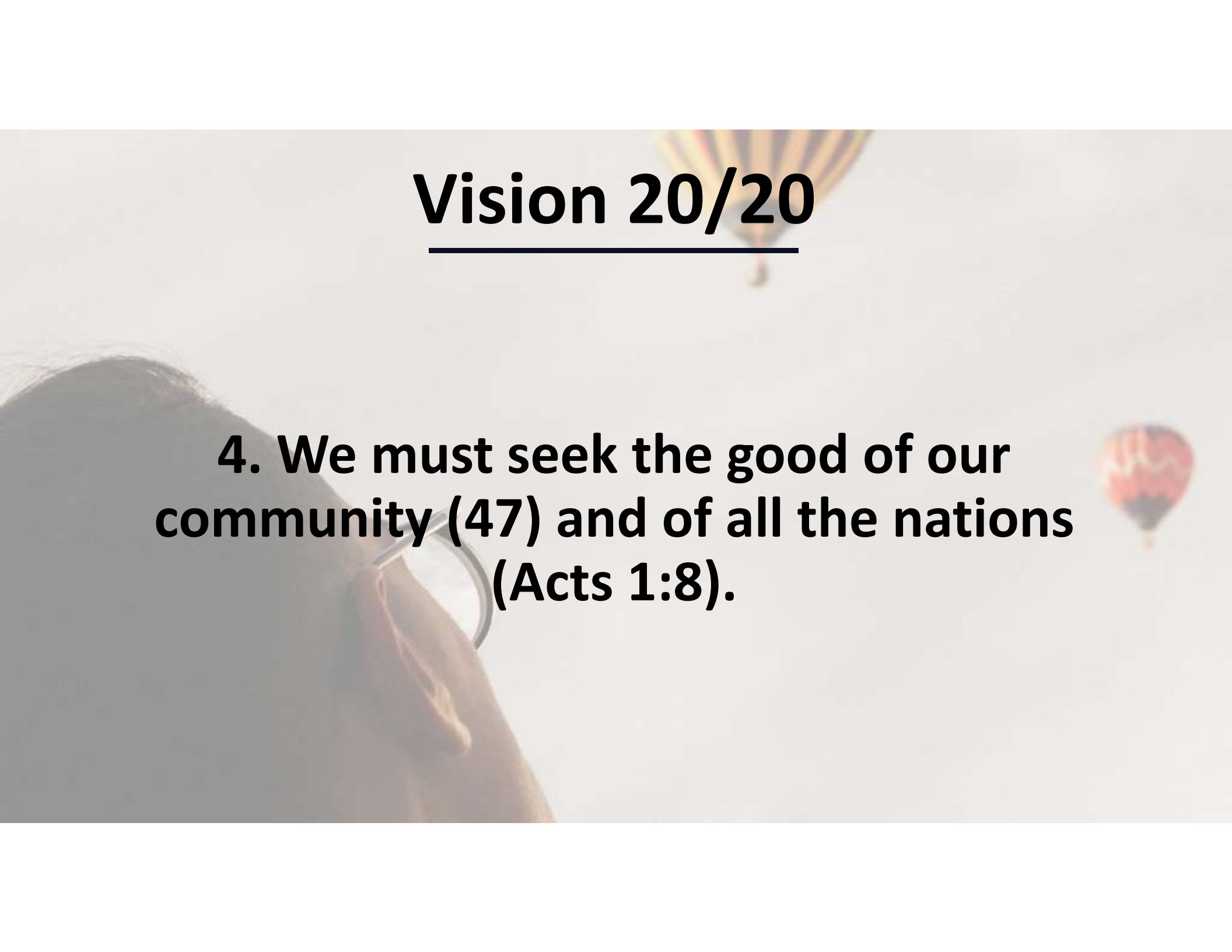
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The building God really wants to renovate is us, His people the living stones who are a Kingdom of priests to a lost world that still needs to know Christ.

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So, anything we do in our sanctuary must, in our minds, not be the end but only a part of the process. Our motivation must be to glorify Christ, to show others how amazing He is, and to be able to have a place to gather with all the new people He will bring into the family until the sanctuary simply is not large enough.

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A person wearing glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a bright, hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The overall tone is optimistic and forward-looking.

4. We must seek the good of our community (47) and of all the nations (Acts 1:8).

A person wearing glasses is looking up at a hazy sky with several hot air balloons. The text is overlaid on the image.

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**We want to be a conduit of God's blessing
in the Roanoke Valley.**

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The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of a person's profile on the left, looking upwards. In the sky, several hot air balloons are visible, including a large one with vertical stripes in the upper center and a smaller one on the right side.

As much as it depends upon us, and so long as we do not compromise God's Word, we want to have favor with all people so that we can get the gospel to all people.

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The background of the slide features a soft-focus photograph of a person's head and shoulders in profile, looking upwards. The person has dark hair and is wearing glasses. In the sky above, several hot air balloons are visible, including a large one with vertical stripes in the upper center and a smaller one with red and blue patterns on the right side. The overall lighting is bright and airy.

First, we could spend approximately \$175,000 to fix the roof, modernize the sanctuary, and relocate and modernize the preschool.

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A person wearing glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The overall tone is soft and contemplative.

Second, we could strive to eliminate the debt ahead of schedule.

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A person is seen from behind, looking out a window at a bright, hazy sky. Several hot air balloons are visible in the distance, adding a sense of hope and vision to the scene.

“God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity we plan only things we can do by ourselves.”

A. W. Tozer

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Imagine if during the November business meeting we were able to direct the \$113,000 currently budgeted for debt payments to be used for ministry.

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A person wearing glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The text 'Vision 20/20' is centered at the top, underlined.

5. We must expect God to give the increase (47).

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A person wearing glasses is shown in profile, looking upwards. The background is a hazy sky with several hot air balloons floating in the distance. The overall tone is soft and contemplative.

**We must attempt great things for God and
expect great things from God.**

-William Carey

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