

## **COME GROW WITH US**

I am a visionary pastor-teacher. For me, this means seeking the direction of the will of God for the church and/or some specific ministry of DSCB.

**Let me review some visions for DSBC** such as children's church, teen ministry, music and drama ministries, summer camps, promoting doctrinal teaching churches in the southeast, School of Biblical Theology, community ministries, web ministry, and foreign missions.

As a young minister, I was influence by the concept of **Proverbs 29:18** – “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.”

Identifying the ministry and objective must be compatible with the word of God – “Many plans are in man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord will stand.” (**Prov.19:21**) “Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.” (**Prov.16:3; Rom.4:21**)

Setting, adjusting, and reaching goals must be tempered by the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit directing the steps – “The mind of man plans his ways, but the Lord directs his steps.” (**Prov.16:9**)

This brings me to the 2013 vision entitled, **COME GROW WITH US**. 2013 will be a year of focusing on believers in the Birmingham area who are hungry to grow spiritually in the study of the word of God.

The Bible passage that instilled this vision in my heart came from our lesson text (2 Pet.3:14-18).

**This lesson will share four aspects of the 2013 vision found in our lesson text.**

### **1. We will examine our lesson text by dividing it into two parts by the word Beloved (agapetos).**

Peter used **Beloved** as a marker to divide (2 Peter ch.3) into four parts, all dealing with the **Second Coming** (2 Pet.3:1-7; 8-13; **14-16; 17-18**). We combined the last two for our study – COME GROW WITH US.

**Beloved** (2 Pet.3:14-16)      2 commands

- Be diligent (spoudazo / a.a.impv.2pl)      (2 Pet.3:14-15a)      Spotless
- Regard (hegeomai / p.m.impv.2pl)      (2 Pet.3:15b- 16)      Suffering and Scriptures

**Beloved** (2 Pt.3:17-18)      2 commands

- Beware (phulasso / p.m.impv.2pl)      (2 Pet.3:17)      Steadfastness
- Grow (auxano / p.a.impv.2pl)      (2 Pet.3:18)      Spheres (grace and knowledge)

One of the questions Peter answered in our lesson text was, “Why make an issue out of spiritual growth when we expect Christ to return at any time?”

**2. If I were to choose one verse of Scripture to identify my ministry in DSBC, it would be:**

(2 Pet.3:18) “But grow in grace and knowledge of our lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.” (NASB)

When we study the missionary trips of Paul in Book of Acts, we see a visionary minister. It always begins with the directive Will of God. For example:

Was it God’s Will for Paul to evangelize the Gentile world? (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Gal.1:15-16; 2:9)?

Is it God’s Will to teach the Word of God to hungry believers for spiritual growth maturity? (Heb.5:11-14)

Is the church the custodian of evangelism and spiritual growth? (Col.1:3-14, 24-29)

**3. How did Jesus find His disciples to teach?**

He had access to all avenues of advertising from heaven and earth yet **He chose personal contact** (John 1:35-51)? He looked for those who hungered and thirsted after righteousness and who weren’t being fed. (Matt.9:36-38; Isa.55:1; John 4:14; Matt.5:6).

**This is the model I am asking us to follow in 2013.** Look for people who have a hunger and thirst for the Word of God and bring them with you to church (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday).

- New born believers who are hungry for milk doctrines (1 Pet.2:2; Heb.5:13).
- Believers who have a hungry for meat doctrines (Heb.5:14).
- Believers who do not have a local church but would like to have one for their family (1 Cor.11:20).
- Believers who once attended DSBC and miss being part of our spiritually growing church body (Heb.10:25).

**Is this something you could personally do in 2013?**

**After answering read, (Rom.10:14-15); (Eph.6:10-17).**