



# THE VISION

August 2016

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*

**Amen. Matthew 28:19-20**

### 3 Ways Satan Will Attempt to Hinder Christ's Church

We have begun a sermon series entitled “The Church.” Thus far, some of our discoveries have involved, “Who We Are” and “We Belong to the Body of Christ.” As Christ’s disciples, we belong to His body with the function of carrying His Keys of the Kingdom into His world!

It is never easy being the one who carries the Keys to the Kingdom. As hard as we try to share the love of Christ, not all people want to hear Christ’s message. If sharing the Keys to the Kingdom is difficult enough teaching our peers, it palls in comparison to Satan’s attempts to hinder our work. Satan will do all he can to shake the church; but he will always fail to destroy it! Be confident in the word of Jesus, “I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it”!

Chris Hefner wrote an article that can guide us into the realization of Satan’s involvement in church life. The book of Acts details the advance of the early church through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ under the power of the Holy Spirit. Time and again, the early believers faced persecution, problems, and challenges. But the advance of the gospel would not be hindered. Acts describes the sovereign advance of God’s gospel! Our job is to remain faithful to preach the good news in the

power of the Holy Spirit!

In his commentary on Acts, John Stott identified 3 ways Satan attempted to hinder the church’s advance: suppression, corruption, and distraction. In Acts 3, Peter and John healed a crippled man and used this opportunity to preach the gospel. Then in Acts 4, the religious leaders imprisoned Peter and John and charged them to cease preaching about Jesus. The Jewish leaders attempted to SUPPRESS the early church. The first believers responded with a powerful prayer meeting and more evangelism!

Today we do not face persecution and suppression like many of our fellow believers across the world, our response to suppression must be biblical. As believers we should lead our congregations in prayer and continued boldness in preaching (Acts 4:23-31).

However, in Acts 5, Satan tempted Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the church (ultimately to the Holy Spirit) about the amount of money for which they sold their property. Satan wanted to CORRUPT the church. In an astonishing story of God’s demand for holiness, Ananias and Sapphira were immediately struck dead for their sin! We must not tolerate corruption in our churches.

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**W.M.U. LEADERS**

Please join me at the PBA Celebration Workshop  
Saturday, August 20th  
at Parkview Baptist Church in Newport News.

This is a great opportunity to focus on our upcoming year. We will  
leave from the small church parking lot at 8:30am.  
Breakfast is included.

**Deacon of the Week**

8/7—Buck Hartman  
8/14—Leslie Belvin  
8/21—Pauline Littell  
8/28—Faye Branen

**Nursery Workers**

8/7—Beverly West  
8/14—Pauline Littell  
8/21—Tracy Williams  
8/28—Rebecca Joyce

**August Tellers**

Helen Spence  
Bill Breeden

**August Ushers:**

Barbara Mangrum  
Chris Hutson  
Keith Belvin  
Leslie Belvin

**Sun. Sch. Nursery**

Sharon/Howard Warren



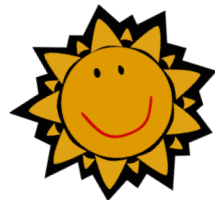
**AUGUST  
WORKERS**

**Older Children's Church**

8/7—Sarah Saunders  
8/14—Jennifer/Derick Hall  
8/21—Madison/Seth Gandee  
8/28—Charlene/John West

**Younger Children's Church**

8/7—Kristen Eifes/Tracy Williams  
8/14—Jennifer Podbesak/Sonya Anthony  
8/21—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner  
8/28—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells



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**WE HAD A GREAT WEEK OF  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

There were between 30-40 children in  
attendance each night and 40-50 adults and  
youth teaching and helping. The children  
had a lot of fun singing, playing games,  
making crafts, and most importantly learning  
about how we are all unique and special and  
that Jesus cares for all of us. On Friday  
night, parents and grandparents were invited  
to hear the children sing and tell about the  
lessons they had learned during the week.

A special thank you goes out to the Sunday  
School classes for providing dinners for the  
teachers and workers each night. The meals  
were greatly appreciated. Thanks to all for  
helping and supporting this ministry.

**Inspirational  
Thoughts**

"Every person I have known who has  
been truly happy, has learned how to  
serve others."  
—Albert Schweitzer

"Only as man brings his life into harmony with God  
does that life have balance and meaning. Then man  
finds that he is not simply a mass of dancing dirt,  
coming from nowhere and going nowhere."  
—Henry Schmidt

# Recipe Corner

## Corn, Avocado, and Tomato Salad

This is a colorful medley that makes a delicious summer dish. You can serve it as a salad or as a chunky dip to scoop up with tortilla chips!!

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 2 1/2 cups fresh corn kernels (from about 5 ears)
- 1 1/2 cups diced avocado (1/2 inch pieces)
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/2 cup finely diced red onion



### Directions:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lime juice, cilantro, salt and pepper.
2. Add the corn, avocado, tomatoes, and onion and toss to mix. Serve at room temperature. Serves 4 to 6.

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Our application from this event is: we must deal with any seeds of corruption clearly and quickly. This starts with giving no place to corruption that may dwell in our own hearts.

There is no greater picture of hate for sin than the cross. God viciously judged sin by sacrificing his Holy Son, Jesus Christ, on our behalf. Judgment is part of the gospel message. Without judgment, there is no good news, no gospel. If we long for our churches to fear God and be in awe of his power (Acts 5:11), we must preach the holiness of God, his judgment on sin, and the good news that follows.

In Acts 6, Satan incited complaints within the church seeking to DISTRACT the church from its purpose. Certain widows were being left out of the daily distribution of food. This caused the apostles to gather the church, decide as a body to elect the first deacons, and address the problem directly. This move resulted in effective ministry and gospel advancement (6:1,7).

Church complaints are going to happen. Sometimes they require direct action as illustrated in this chapter. Addressing church hindrances with clarity will allow the gospel to be advanced, wherever the Holy Spirit leads.

So, let us pray fervently, study consistently, and preach the gospel powerfully as we go on the offensive against our enemy who wants to hinder church growth. Remember Jesus' promise in **Matthew 16:18**, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

—Pastor Bud Goude

