

VCC Mission Statement – Reaching people for God and helping them become fully devoted followers of Christ.

2 Cor.5:17-21 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Sin separates people from God, but God wants everyone to be reconciled to him

He has committed to us the message. We are to continue his work.

Jesus has instructed us and made us competent (able) to do it.

2 Corinthians 3:6 *He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant*

We are all competent (have the ability) to share the gospel.

Jude 3 *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.*

Jude urges his readers to contend for the faith against those who seek to undermine, erode or pervert it.

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deceitful spirits, and doctrines of demons.*

We need sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:2-4 *Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

Paul emphasized that we must only preach an accurate Gospel.

1 Cor. 15:1-3 *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

This Gospel – a specific message.

We must preach The Gospel.

Galatians 1:6-9 *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be condemned. As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be eternally condemned.*

So back then the gospel message was being corrupted and still today there are other gospels being preached.

2 Peter 2:1-3 *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories.*

So it is important to know and understand The Gospel. The true and accurate gospel. Paul refers to as it is the only gospel that has the power to save.

Romans 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the Salvation of everyone who believes.*

We need to understand all the truth and the key elements the gospel entails. It keeps us from deception and builds confidence in sharing our faith.

The Gospel is not only our most important message it is also the most needed message in these days of mass deception and darkness.

We need to be able to share our faith confidentially and effectively.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect*

Give an answer to anyone, at any time. Our testimony coupled with the Gospel message is very powerful. So – what is the Gospel?

Jesus referred to as the Gospel of the kingdom of God

Mark 1:14-15 NKJV *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Paul referred to it as the Gospel of the Grace of God.

Acts 20:24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*

It is not important what we call it. But the content is very important.

Generally people need to hear gospel truth a number of times before they make a decision for Christ.

Acts 17:2-4 *As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.*

Most people need context and explanation if they are fully understand it.

Acts 8:30-31 *Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"*

Ephesians 3:8 *...this grace was given me to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone...*

The message must be clear and precise, covering the key points of why we need to be saved, how we can be saved and Jesus' part in salvation.

And while the Gospel contains several key truths the emphasis focuses on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

The foundation of the gospel, is the good news, that God saves sinners. Man is by nature sinful and separated from God with no hope of remedying that situation and is headed for destruction. But God, because of his love and by His power, provided the means of man's redemption/salvation in the death, burial and resurrection our Savior, Jesus Christ.