



Building to Change Lives

| KEY THOUGHTS

- There are tens of thousands in Hancock County who are still outside of a relationship with God, and He is inviting us to join Him in His ongoing work of rescuing them.
- **We all start out in life with a veil over our hearts and are blind to the gospel.**
 - Because of that blindness, a person can read the Bible from cover to cover and know its contents well but still not see the need for salvation through faith in Christ.
- **The solution is to turn to the Lord; that's when the Holy Spirit lifts the veil.**
 - **Understanding doesn't lead to faith; rather, faith leads to understanding.**
- When we turn to the Lord, three things happen:
 - We realize we're separated from God and walking ever farther away from Him; **that's sometimes called "conviction"**;
 - When we see this, we turn around, rejecting the sin that separates us and orienting ourselves toward God; that's "repentance";
 - We begin walking with God, which is an ongoing process; that's "regeneration".
- This brings freedom, both...
 - from being ruled by self, sin, guilt, condemnation, blindness, etc.; and
 - to love God, serve others, experience life the way we were created to live it, seek the truth, tell others about Jesus.
- As we hear the Holy Spirit speak and in response say, "Yes," this freedom transforms us, both in the present tense (it's continually happening) and in the passive (it's something the Holy Spirit does to us).
- **We now are invited to partner with the Holy Spirit in helping the blind to see and to invite others into true freedom.**

| SCRIPTURE

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:12-18 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- This vision for reaching the lost of Hancock County began in 1987 with the founding of Findlay Evangelical Free Church, and it's still going on.
- How can I participate?
 - Understand that our lack of space at Lighthouse is a barrier to expanding our outreach;
 - See the need for training people in ministry and church planting as a means to reach more people with the gospel;
 - Step out in faith however God leads.
- Request a home visit to talk about it.
 - This is not a sales pitch, but merely friends talking to friends about ministry;
 - There is no pressure, no guilt, no compulsion to give;
 - Pray and ask God how He would have me to participate financially.

| REFLECT

- Can we trust God for a vision that's bigger than just one location?
- How might God use a church with open doors (open for all to come in, and for the gospel to go out into the surrounding communities)?
- What might happen when a church is unapologetically focused on the gospel?
- What would a New Testament church look like in Hancock and the surrounding counties today? Tomorrow?
- This is the way we were created to live, and the purpose for which Christ came. What could possibly give more joy and hope than to follow God's design for us?

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