

only loves them (and starts spinning theologies that neglect God's central concern), the clock is ticking toward the breakdown and destruction of that church.

Therefore, the church must not make its focus: political agenda; family protection; fundamentalist church protection; corporate worship, personal healing, etc.

This is why we are committed to evangelism and missions as the hub around which everything we do revolves.

Xenos Mission Statement:

God has called on the church to cooperate with him as he reconciles the world to himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). Therefore, Xenos Christian Fellowship exists to help people learn to draw close to God. This work begins by inviting people to receive the gift of forgiveness offered through Christ.

We are committed to fostering spiritual growth by encouraging people to respond to God's love through loving service toward God and all people. Specifically, we direct our resources to serving the family, the non-Christian community locally and internationally, and the broader Christian community.

There is nothing different about Xenos in this regard. We have been blessed by God (in part) because we have continued to obey the light that we have received. That light has consistently moved us in the direction described here. But God is not dependent on us to accomplish his purpose. If we move away from this purpose or shrink back from the steps of faith he asks us to take (domestic work and frontier work and example for others), God will find someone else to use. We will be bypassed in that sense, begin to experience inner "rot" and become eventually an empty husk. We are committed to not letting that happen in our lifetime.

The church is the only social entity that exists primarily for the benefit of its nonmembers.

4. Missions is a key to victorious Christian living

The average Christian bookstore is glutted with books on how to appropriate God's blessings for *you*, how to be all God wants *you* to be. American narcissistic, therapeutic, self-absorbed "spirituality" is antithetical to biblical spirituality. Where are the books that teach us how to follow, suffer for and die for Christ? They don't sell, so they aren't printed, so Christians don't read them. But there is no lasting fulfillment in Christianity apart from this!!

(John 12:24,25) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (25) The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

(Mark 8:34,35) Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (35) For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Any spirituality which merely develops and fulfills that individual, and does not focus on God's mission, is unbiblical and therefore doomed to failure and disappointment.

Recall that by mission we mean the extension of God's blessing (redemption and rule) to all people.

Have you ever given up your small ambitions? Have you ever laid down your plans for your life, asking God to bless your agenda—and told him: "Here is my life—use it to fulfill your purpose?"

The goal of this Class is to help equip you to play your role in this purpose.

It is not primarily for self-improvement, knowledge quest or experiences with God. Though all of these are good, and may happen in this class, they are a byproduct of following Christ into his purpose.

(Eph. 4:11,12) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, (12) to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up . . .

Xenos Vision Statement:

Xenos has set out to build a highly trained, sophisticated, caring, leadable, cohesive, committed, and flexible workforce of Christian servants who continually strive to serve the Lord and do his will.

This is one of the big reasons why we urge you to be actively involved in evangelism and a home group. In this context, you can practice this lifestyle, and begin to share what you are learning with others.

Memory Verses

Gen. 12:1-3** - The Abrahamic covenant, in which God promised to provide his redemptive blessing to the world through Abraham's descendants. Key elements of the promise: land, nationhood, personal blessing, and all the nations blessed through one of Abraham's descendants.

Matt. 28:18-20* - The Great Commission, in which Jesus commands the church to both evangelize and train people from every people group.