



I. PURPOSE OF THE DAY

A. 2017 in review

B. I have a tendency to look at Joy through a filter

- What's now, what's next, urgent, the last service, series or event
- You may view JCC through the filter of
 - The service you regularly attend
 - Whether you have children or not
 - The filter of your gift or passion or you're wired

C. The problem is – we can get tunnel vision and miss a lot

Proverbs 29:18 (Message) ¹⁸ If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

II. THIS IS WE – 30,000 foot view

A. This church moves at the speed of WE

III. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE IF 2018 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR JCC?

A. What would Dec 31, 2018 look like if Joy Christian Center had a great year?

- I have three simple goals
 - I want to help people know God – savior and Lord
 - I want to see people become faithful followers of Christ
 - I want to have a blast doing the first two
- A simple thought from scripture

Acts 8:5, 8 (NKJV) ⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.

- A very simple belief: If we would preach Christ in a way that He could simply and effectively be made known and give people an opportunity to respond - there will be Joy great joy in our city

B. We fight hard to stay true to this

IV. THE TIMES THEY HAVE A CHANGED

A. After 26 years things aren't the same anymore

B. Something isn't working

- Pew Research Center's 2014 Religious Landscape Study
 - Fewer and fewer Americans are self-identifying as Christians



- Nearly 23% of American's – just under 56 million people - are recognized as “Nones” – no affiliation

C. America is a post Christian nation

A post-Christian society is not merely a society in which agnosticism or atheism is the prevailing fundamental belief. It is a society rooted in the history, culture, and practices of Christianity but in which the religious beliefs of Christianity have been either rejected or, worse, forgotten

V. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

A. Jesus told us to “see the harvest”

John 4:35 (NKJV) Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

- A different strategy is required for different types of harvest
- **There are 56 million people in America who think**
 - What we're doing right now is a waste of time and totally irrelevant to their lives

B .What is God doing at Joy? (Prov 29 See what God is doing and connect it to action)

- **We are better together**
 - **Get connected**
- **Find a Circle and get in a row**
 - Find a circle and connect
 - Get in a row and make a difference
- 2018 will have been a great year at JCC if we can harness this, become this thought when we realize that
 - **This church moves at the speed of we ... or really ... me**

Colossians 3:17 (NLT) And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

- **We believe that God has collectively called us together to make a difference in Central MN**