



PROMISE YOURSELF

**This Ted Talk does not come from The Optimist Creed...It is written from my heart, a special hymn, and John Wesley's Three Simple Rules.**

If you are a United Methodist Christian, you have turned to page 451 in your Hymnal and sang "Be Thou My Vision." In my years in association with William C. Martin UMC, I have worshipfully joined my voice with yours and sang this great hymn dozens of times.

"Be Thou My Vision, has its origins almost fifteen hundred years ago in Ireland. We don't know the author's name, but the meaning of his or her words is still clear today. The hymn is a prayer—a prayer that Christ will be our vision—our best thought—our presence—our light—our example. Indeed Jesus is the example of ways we serve God and offer love, and care, and feed, and pray endlessly for friends, family, and people throughout the world..

What would it mean if Christ were our vision? How would it change our lives?

We would see less of the world through social media, national and local news, political rhetoric, and Netflix series and movies. The world would be ours to see through Christ's eyes. We would see that divisive words hurt another person. We recognize that words and actions with racial undertones, or failing to use protective gear to protect the vulnerable against the invisible enemy are harmful.

Knowing when we sing "Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word" we can't lose sight of why we are Christ like...Christian. It's ingrained in our faith and keeps us focused on Loving God and Loving our Neighbor, and perhaps adopting John Wesley's three simple rules—"Do no harm—Do good—Stay in love with God.

Lives can be changed. People can feel loved and cared for. Seeing the world through Christ's eyes instills loving as Christ loved. Seeing the world through Christ's eyes drives us to reduce humankind's inhumanity to humankind, and leads us in the direction to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Many of us feel the growing disagreements with friends and family about being together "like we did last Christmas" and only celebrating birthdays via Zoom. It hurts! Standing firm and continuing to follow the guidelines for masks and distancing is, I believe, seeing the world with genuine love for all. Sandy and I struggle with the knowledge her Mom is Covid-19 positive but asymptomatic. We're blessed that she does not experience all the pain, but we don't know how many of the 40 cases in Keller Oaks may have been infected before she was placed in isolation. I truly believe protecting with mask and distancing is a small price to pay for human life.

People who have come to see the world through Christ's eyes tend to be centered—less troubled than most—strong with a strength that comes from God.

With these words in mind, I challenge you to let Jesus be your Vision, and commit to “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

Peace always.

Ted