

“Where There Is No Vision!”

Text: Prov. 29:18

Introduction:

- What does the Word of God mean when God says... **“Where there is NO vision, the people perish?”** (Prov. 29:18) What does the word VISION mean?? In Spiritual terminology to have vision means having *“Divine perspective,” “Divine wisdom,” “Divine insight or illumination,”* and *“vision”* are roughly equivalent terms.
- If God means *“perspective, wisdom, insight, illumination”* when we read the word, **vision** -- then many passages in Scripture reveal the importance of such a vision.
“Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law.”
(Ps. 119:18)
“The entrance of Thy Word giveth light, it give understanding unto the simple.”
Psa. 119:130) Read Ephesians 1:15-19.
- The text shows us **negatively how important vision is!** An individual’s sight depends on the **lens** he looks through, his hearing depends upon the **filter** he listens through.
So, what is the value of vision? Prov. 29:18

I. THE CONCEPT OF VISION!

- The word, **“where”** *there is no vision* is used obviously meaning **wherever**, so this verse speaks of anywhere, at all times, **universally, personally, objectively.**

A. The key word of the text -- is Vision!

1. What is vision? The Phillips paraphrase of Col. 1:9 gives us a wonderful working definition. Paul said to the Colossians, *“I pray that you will see things from God’s point of view.”*
2. Someone has defined vision as **“getting on your heart what God has on His.”**
3. It is a formula -- **Proper information + spiritual illumination equals vision.**
4. Vision brings **motivation** in the life of a devoted Christian and **“motivation brings spiritual productive action.”**

B. Everything Begins With Vision! (John 4:34-35; Matt 9:36-38)

1. *“You will **be** what you see -- but what you **do not see** -- you cannot **be!**”*
2. *“You will **become** what you behold -- but **what you do not behold, you cannot become!**”*
3. Or you could say -- *“What you look at lovingly, longingly, and lastingly, you will become like.” “You will be like what you **look at** or **desire**, what you **put** into your life as your agenda, your goal, your purpose. **You become what you seek after!**”*

C. The Holy Spirit came for many reasons, among them -- TO GIVE VISION! (Read the Book of Acts.)

1. *“To give your young men **visions**, your old men will dream **dreams**.”*
(Acts 2:17)
2. This is not talking about something mystical, mysterious, or something that might come to some recluse mystics, or psychic seers but the truth is that this is to be normal experience of spiritual Christians.
 - a. What did Paul mean in II Corinthians 5:10-15?
 - b. What did Paul mean in Acts 26:19?
 - c. True solid, Biblical strategic **“visions and dreams”** should be the daily result of a walk in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave the early church disciples and Apostles **vision of being used**. They **saw** the harvest field; **they had vision**. (Jh. 4:35-36)
 - d. When you compare this with Isaiah’s experience, then we see that vision makes all the difference in the world. He had vision. (Read Isaiah 1:1-8.)

D. Vision is to have on our heart what is on God’s heart!

1. What does God have on His heart? (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Jh. 20:21)
2. What is God’s burden? (Luke 14:23, 15:7, 10; II Pet. 3:9)
3. What should be at the **heart** of the believer’s dreams and visions?
 - a. The text says it would be **people!** (Prov. 29:18) For where there is no vision people perish. (Jh. 3:16-17; Jh. 4:35-36; Psa. 126:5-6 Rom. 1:14-16) All about us people perish due to our lack or indifference.
 - b. Why are 4/5 of the population of the earth so poorly evangelized?
 - c. Why is it that nearly 1/2 of the world’s population are unevangelized? (Consider Romans 10:13-17) **Would the early church have tolerated this?** Would the kind of Christianity revealed in the book of Acts have tolerated this kind of situation? **Certainly not!**

What is the difference between the kind of Christianity of the early church and of today? Why is the prevailing version of Christianity today so weak, anemic, indifferent, powerless? **We have NO VISION!** *Therefore we have very little dedication!*

E. The early church had STRATEGY!

1. The difference between the Christianity then and now is a difference of vision and with that vision came strategy.
2. Their strategy was not building buildings or institutions. So often today we are majoring on minors. NO, their strategy was reaching people.
3. The outcome then was **explosion** not **implosion!**
4. (Lk. 6:13) The twelve apostles or disciples were trained and sent. They had vision, purpose, and strategy for they knew God’s heart desire.

It is my firm conviction that Jesus Christ fully expects every saved person to be dominated by a vision that is always turning his eyes and his feet toward evangelization, to reach people unto the ends of the earth! He clearly gave us a global mission and a global mission demands having a global vision!

I believe that both the vision and vocation are to be individually and personally settled before a holy God. (Rom. 12:1) I believe Jesus fully expects every saved person to have a vision and a strategy clearly molded by Him, that we might impact the world to the ends of the earth and until the end of time!

II. THE CONDITION. . . WHERE THERE IS NO VISION!

- Sad, but true, most Christians are as self-centered and as survival oriented as are most lost people. What do lost people live for? What is their primary interest and concern?
- Sad, but true, most saved people are about as selfish, and live for self interests as the norm is for most unsaved.

What is the problem? What is lacking? **We have no vision...** we do not see things as God sees them. **We don't have God's heart or the mind of Christ.** (Matt. 20:28; Phil. 2:5-11) Our text give us the understanding of the problem, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

Saved people often do not see things from God's point of view but are caught up in the things of this world. Living for **things... things... things** becomes the norm. Then any burden the Holy Spirit would lay upon the heart is never sensed, and never embraced.

A. Evidence of the problem -- a lack of vision -- (Numbers 13:20)

Israel had arrived at Kadesh-Barnea, just south of the land God had promised them. They apparently were ready to enter the promise land, however they balked in unbelief and sent in a team of spies into the land, etc. Two of the ten had vision; they all knew what God could do but they did not all have vision -- seeing things from the eye of God.

B. Human intelligence will always give you your point of view.

1. Only divine illumination of your heart, a submissive spirit, and a yielded body will cause you to see things from God's point of view.
2. If there is **vision** God's work flourishes or if **no vision** God's work languishes and souls remain unevangelized.

III. CONSEQUENCES --- WHEN THERE IS NO VISION!

What does the word perish mean?

A. The Hebrew word, "*perish*," first of all means "*to cast off restraint*."

1. Where there is no vision -- the people of the society, of the community, or the home -- "*cast off restraint*."
2. There is a **moral effect in the loss of vision**.

3. A loss of vision produces moral anarchy... and “*man does that which is right in his own eyes.*” *The carnal Christian will not make the decisions he ought to make, neither will the unsaved. They do not have God’s point of view.*
4. Right and wrong are relative to those who have no vision; they are not aware of ultimate reality for they do not see with a spiritual eye. Without divine insight, wisdom, and discernment men are lacking who discern the times!
5. Autonomy, anarchy, and self-determination are increasing widespread.
6. (Jh. 8:29) Consider these words of Christ and compare that with the actions of mankind... even Christians!

B. Secondly, this Hebrew word... perish... means “to disintegrate.”

1. This is the ***social effect of a loss of vision.*** Sin takes men downward. Mankind is driving away from the true center of His life -- God Himself -- to a fragmented, divided personal world.
2. When saved people lose vision they begin to fight among themselves. They are divided, critical, unloving, and uncaring.
3. Society begins ***to break up, go to pieces.*** We have split families, split nations, slip world, split churches because there is no vision!
4. When men are inwardly united in the heart and have purpose and vision, then divine goals and purposes are fulfilled. Then that person can weather most any kind of storm, and even persecution because he sees things from God’s point of view.

C. Without vision -- people are “unclothed”... that is the third meaning of the word perish.

1. To be spiritually naked.. undone... is to be without Christ’s righteousness, and this ***reveals the personal effect of the lack of vision.*** (Rom. 3:22-24)
2. People are unprotected for time or eternity. They are **unclothed**, do not have on the garments of righteousness and are not clothed in Christ’s righteousness which is by faith, through God’s grace.

D. And fourth, without vision ... the people indeed “perish.”

1. Compassion (Matt 9:36-38) is a MUST for we desperately need it!
2. People perish or are forever in hell. (I Cor. 1:18; II Pet. 3:9)
3. People are in a present state of perishing... this is the ***spiritual effect when we do not have vision.*** Their blood is on our hands. (Ezek. 33: 7-11)
4. Many people every second perish without Christ -- lost to the church, lost to Christ. And all because the church has lost vision.
5. Hell fills and heaven has its vacancies yet to be filled all because the Church’s vision has faded. WHAT ABOUT YOU?