

"The Absolute Necessity of a Clear Vision"

"WITHOUT A VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH" Prov. 29:18

Introduction. Some say that this proverb was copied down in the time of Hezekiah, when the nation was in a difficult circumstance. Today we need vision in statesmanship, in education, etc. & but especially in Christianity. I. Sam. 3:1, "Word from the Lord was unusual (precious), no public (open) vision." Samuel chosen.

I. The meaning of the text.

- A."The people are made naked; stripped of their ornaments and so exposed to shame, stripped of their armour and so exposed to danger."
- B.The people rebel, not only against God but against their prince.
- C.The people are idle, or they play.
- D.They are scattered as sheep having no shepherd, for want of the masters of assemblies to call them and keep them together. (Mk. 6:34).
- E.They are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

II. The perishing condition in our day.

A. In the Church

- 1. Pastors have no vision. Lam. 2:9 "prophets find no vision from the Lord." II Chron 16:9
- 2. People are perishing because they are not being fed spiritual food. Amos 8:11
- 3. Christians go blind when they fail to grow spiritually. II Peter 1:9

B. In the U. S. A. perishing national condition

C. In the world at large.

- 1. Lost souls are perishing by the hundreds of thousands every day that passes.
- 2. Ratio of missionaries to population in world.
- 3. Corruption and degredation found wherever Christ is not known.
- 4. Lam. 1:12, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"

III. What is the reason for this condition?

- A. Because pastors have not preached sermons to awaken their people to the condition of sinners and the responsibility of every christian to evangelize the lost ones.

B. Some christians actually think they do have a vision for lost souls, but they are deceiving themselves. They are near-sighted and do not know it. Church program.

C. Some have no concern for the Saviour's command to evangelize the world because they have no love for Christ. II Cor. 5:14.

John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments

IV. What is the remedy for the situation?

A. We need a first class vision of Christ. Jno. 14:9
"When I met the Master face to face"

When we meet Him we lose all our selfish ambitions.

B. We need a vision of lost souls.

C. We need a vision of Hell.

D. We need a vision of Heaven

E. We need the fullness of the Holy Ghost, Spirit.

Acts 2:17 "Young men shall see visions, and old men shall dream dreams."

We will not have the fullness of the Holy

Spirit apart from (1) obedience, Acts 5:32; 26:19

(2) Yielding, Rom. 12:1.

Conclusions: A young lady said to her Aunt, "I can't seem to get interested in missions." Her Aunt answered, "No, dear, you can't expect to. It is just like getting interest in a bank; you have to put in something first. And the more you put in--time, or money, or prayer--the more the interest grows. We must not only get the vision, but we must do something about it. Acts 16:10. Don't be disobedient to the heavenly vision. Acts 26:19, 20

Vision without Work is visionary.

Work without Vision is mercenary.

Vision and Work are missionary.

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