

# The Necessity of Vision

## Lesson for Sunday, September 25, 2022

### INTRODUCTION:

- If you have children, what are your plans for your kids?
- If you started a business, what were your dreams for that business?
- When you graduated from high school, what did you envision your life to be like?
- When we talk like this, we are talking about vision. Some people like that kind of language and discussion, others do not. But no one can argue that vision is not important.
- Vision is a biblical topic, and it is important for God's people to understand.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Necessity of Vision (Proverbs 29:18)
  - a. Read the text and ask, "What does this verse teach us?"
    - i. Allow for some discussion...
    - ii. "Perish" is the idea of unrestrained and without direction.
    - iii. Your point is that this verse is pretty clear and easy for us to understand.
  - b. This verse emphasizes the critical importance of vision. It is a truth that applies to individuals, families, nations and churches (even SS classes).
  - c. Vision is the ability to look ahead and see what does not yet exist. It is a mental picture of what could be.
  - d. Vision impacts people and the way they live: it motivates, guides, unites and sustains.
  - e. Discuss: What would be signs that indicate a lack or loss of vision?
    - i. Apathy, confusion, division, lack of initiative...
  - f. There is no quality more essential to a church than vision: without it, we perish.
2. The Source of Vision
  - a. Discuss: Where does vision come from?
    - i. Some copy others: the latest fads, polling data, etc.
    - ii. Some visions are shaped by the needs around them: think of an entrepreneur who sees a need in his area and then has the vision to meet that need.
    - iii. In business, the vision often comes from the mind of the boss/leader. People are hired to carry out someone else's vision.
  - b. For a local church, our vision must come from the Word of God.
  - c. The Bible is the source of everything we need as Christians and as a church.
    - i. 2 Timothy 3:17 – "thoroughly furnished unto all good works"
    - ii. 2 Peter 1:3 – "hath given unto us all things that pertain to life"
    - iii. 2 Peter 1:19 – "we have a more sure word of prophecy"
  - d. Everything we need for life – including our vision – must originate and be supported by the Word of God.
  - e. There are other benefits that come from basing our vision on the Bible:
    - i. Our vision is unchanging. If a new pastor comes – the vision stays the same. We might have different ways of saying it, but the vision is from God and never changes.
    - ii. Our vision is universal: It applies to all ages, all classes, all places, and even all cultures.

- iii. Our vision is enduring: Christianity has faced many enemies throughout the centuries, but God's Word still stands.
  - f. Point: We don't come up with a fresh vision. The vision comes from God's Word.
- 3. The Vision of FBT
  - a. Here's how we state our vision: *Our vision is to build an army of Bible-believing people, mobilized and committed to Jesus Christ and His church.*
    - i. Have this on the board...
    - ii. Have the class read it together a few times...
  - b. Where do we find this in the Scriptures?
  - c. Our vision stems from two main biblical texts:
    - i. The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20
    - ii. The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-40
  - d. These verses give us the plan to make our church vision a reality:
    - i. We must WORSHIP GOD (Matthew 22:37).
    - ii. We must LOVE OTHERS (Matthew 22:39).
    - iii. We must WITNESS EVERYWHERE (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8).
    - iv. We must MAKE DISCIPLES (Matthew 28:19-20).

#### CONCLUSION:

- God has so richly blessed our church. But if not properly received, God's blessings can lead to complacency and a church's vision can die.
- Discuss: How does our vision apply to this SS class?
- Discuss: How does our vision apply to us individually?
- Question: Do you have a vision? Have you bought in to the vision of our church?
- Sir Francis Drake was best known for circumnavigating Earth in 1577-1580. He was an English explorer, sea captain, naval officer, and politician.
  - There is a well-known prayer of Sir Francis Drake that is appropriate for people who have lost their vision: *"Disturb us Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves. When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little. When we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Oh Lord."*
- Will you pray that God will help us see our vision become a reality in the days ahead?
- Will you commit to these four summarizing points that will lead us to the reality of our vision?