

## **“Our Need For Vision”**

### **Proverbs 29:18**

For many months, America has been caught up in presidential primary campaigns. A few days ago, I watched TV as the candidates discussed what was being called their “vision for America.” As they debated, the thought came to me that what Christian people need is spiritual vision. And then I remembered that the inspired writer of Proverbs, in chapter 29 and verse 18, writes: “Where there is no vision the people perish.” That started me to think about my own spiritual vision or what I believe should be at least a part of Christian people’s spiritual vision.

- I. We need a vision of the power of God. Recently, I was in a Sunday School class where the teacher pointed out that one of the fundamentals of the Christian faith is genuine belief in the power of “Almighty” God. In the Ephesian letter, Paul prays that the people will realize the “exceeding greatness of the power of God.” Without the greatness of the power of God Jesus Christ would not have been able to accomplish His mission on earth. Without God’s power, sin and death would have conquered Jesus. But with God’s power, He conquered sin and death. We need a clear vision of God’s power as we face the challenge confronting us in today’s world.
  
- II. We need a vision of the spiritual condition of people all around us. All around us are dedicated Christians, lost people, and people who are indifferent and unconcerned about spiritual matters. Many people are indeed so “sick in the spirit” that they become physically sick. Therefore, our ministry to people, like that of Jesus, should be to the whole person. Matthew tells us that Jesus went about “preaching, teaching, and healing.” When He saw the multitudes in need, He ministered to the whole person. And so should we.
  
- III. We need a clear vision of what our churches can become. After Simon Peter confessed Jesus to be the “Christ, the Son of the living God,” Jesus said: “Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.” For 26 years while I served on the staff of Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, one of my responsibilities was to speak in churches across the state of North Carolina as I represented Christ and the great institution through which I served. Many times as I left one of those churches – some large and some small – my thought would be: “I just wonder if those people really have any idea what that church can become and what tremendous service those members can render in our Lord’s name!” One truth we need to know is this: “The true church is more than a fellowship where we are entertained. The true church is a divine institution through which Almighty God has ordained that so much of His great work be done.”

One powerful truth must be added to this message: “Vision is worthless without work.” The wise man said in Proverbs: “Where there is no vision the people perish.” But we

can spend years dreaming about the power of God, the spiritual condition of people all around us, what we as individuals can become, and what our churches can become. But all this is worthless unless we act and turn our visions into realities.

“Where there is no vision the people perish.” And without work our vision will perish. May God help us to be dreamers and workers. AMEN!

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