**"IN QUEST of A GREATER VISION"**

**Scripture Reading...**

**Proverbs 29:18**... *Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. "-Proverbs 29:18.*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. **Any successful endeavor requires a vision...**

 **a. The word "vision":**

 **1) Literally means the ability to see things that are visible.**

 **2) But it also used to mean the ability to see other things**

 a) **through....**

**a. discernment**

**b. perception;**

**c. intelligent foresight"**

 b) **"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible"**

 b. **Such ventures as business or politics require "Men OR Women of vision"**

 **1) Companies require CEOs with vision, countries require leaders**

 **with vision**

 **2) Without the ability to visualize worthy goals and how these**

 **can be realized, very little of importance is ever achieved.**

**2. In the Lord's work, we desperately need an elevated vision of what**

 **it is all about...**

 **a. We need greater goals (what can be done) and greater objectives**

 **(how it can be done)**

**God certainly had a vision....even before anything ever existed!!!!!**

**Genesis chapter 1:1-31 God revealed his entire Vision to Us in the Bible!!!**

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.3And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.4And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.5And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.6And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.7And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.8And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.9And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.10And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.11And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.12And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.13And the evening and the morning were the third day.14And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:15And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.16And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.17And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,18And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.19And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.20And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.21And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.22And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.23And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.24And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.25And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.29And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.30And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.31And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

WE ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE GOD HAD A VISION, AND HE FULFILLED THAT VISION!!!

**HE SPOKE AND CREATED THE VISION INTO EXISTENCE!!!!**

**GOD SENT HIS EMBASSADOR OF EMBASSADORS, HIS EXCELLENCY, SON OF SONS, TO GAIN BACK WHAT WAS LOST THROUGH THE PROCESS OF TIME.**

**HE SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON CHRIST JESUS TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH IS LOST.!!!**

**b. Jesus certainly had a great vision to fulfill, given to him by the Father:......**

**"The saving of souls!"**

[**Mt 9:36-38**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%209.36-38)**; 36But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.37Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;38Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**

[**Jn 4:35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%204.35)**35Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.**

**Jesus then proceeded to pass on to the Disciples His Fathers Vision...**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*The Saving O f Souls!!\*\*\*\*\*\***

**c.!!!!!! We as individuals and as a church need to have This vision Alive, along with others that are worthy of the "King of kings and Lord of lords"!!!!**

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

I want to use this text from Proverbs as I believe it has been used in the minds of people down through the years.

I personally think that it speaks of another kind of vision-

(a work of God in the hearts of men and women.)

In Acts 2:17....it says....**17And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:**

*"* Paul spoke of visions. Paul said in Acts 26:19, *"I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."*

*What does this mean?????*

*It is the "heavenly vision,"* seeing things God wants us to see, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."

Paul had a vision of himself. He had never seen himself before. He looked upon himself as religious, proud and arrogant. He thought that he was something and somebody, but God knew he was only a sinner. One day God knocked him off his horse literally. He groveled in the dust, blinded by the indescribable glory of God.

I personally believe that God should blind our carnal eyes that we may also see that indescribable glory of God so that we may see the spiritual vision!

Paul on the ground saw himself as a Hell bound sinner and cried out, "Lord, who art Thou, and what do You want me to do?" He finally saw himself spiritually. But he not only saw himself.......

*He saw his service.*

He saw the service that God would use him in, once he was saved.

He saw the separating act of God's power lifting him out of the world and placing him into the body of Christ, giving him a job to do for all eternity.

*He saw a vision of a resurrected nailed scarred Jesus Christ.*

He saw a vision of Jesus Christ, the like of which he had never seen before. So he said.... "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."

Paul was now in the hands of the Lord, ready to be prepared for his service to be anointed with the Holy spirit and to have “The Vision of Lost Souls” impregnated in his spirit and to carry the torch and carry the Vision mission and commission of the Father!!!

That is the kind of vision that I want to talk to you about in this message,

I. What The Church Needs to Have is “The Vision of Lost Souls” impregnated in our spirits and in the church!!!

I do not think that there has ever been an hour in the history of the church when the people of God needed to have a vision of souls that are lost like that vision is needed in this day and hour. You listen to the conversation of Christians, and you listen to the preaching of preachers, and you are bound to come to the conclusion that the church today, the modern-day church, yes, even the fundamental, Bible believing church of this hour, does not have a concise vision of souls that are lost.

God gave that vision to Paul. Acts 16 is one of the most dramatic chapters in the Bible. Things happened. People were saved. Families were baptized. Cities were stirred. Earthquakes happened. Prayers were answered. Jails were destroyed. And the work of God went on.

Oh! How I pray, God give us a vision of lost souls! Jesus saw them. Listen, if you want to see what Jesus saw, if you are interested in what Jesus is interested in, you are going to have a vision of lost souls.

 Matthew 9:36 says, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

Listen, When Jesus saw the multitudes. He didn't see them as prospective church members only. He didn't see them as statistics. He saw them as souls. Friends, the church of Jesus Christ today needs to see a vision of lost souls.

The church today needs to call into existence "The Vision of Saving Souls" because it is the vision of God through His beloved Son ...Christ Jesus!!!!

Story of David Livingstone…..

We need a vision like David Livingstone had when he went to that dark continent of Africa. In his day some had never seen the face of a white man. They said, "We never knew we were black because we never had seen a man who was white until David Livingstone came." All the years of his fruitful life, he walked among them. He braved the rigors of that land, the diseases that racked his body, the fever that almost killed him. He loved them to God until thousands were saved. Then one day they found him dead in the little pup tent, kneeling at his cot, praying, On a piece of paper he wrote... "O God, give me Africa!"-a prayer he always prayed. He died, literally, on his knees.

They lifted his body and sent it back to England, to be buried in Westminster Abbey. In the middle aisle where kings and important people of history are buried, lies the body of David Livingstone. The natives said, "His body belongs to England but his heart belongs to Africa. Leave it here." So his heart was taken from his body and buried in the soil of Africa. That was where his heart was.

**I ask you this evening, "Where is your heart when it comes to the souls of men?"**

In order for us to understand the “Vision of Lost Souls”

II. We Need a Clear Vision of the Judgment Seat of Christ

When people talk about judgment, usually Christian people, they think of a Great White Throne judgment, when people are lost and stand before a holy God and the books are opened and the names are read and they are then assigned to the lake of fire forever. But there is another judgment in the Bible never mentioned very much and that judgment is not for sinners but for saints. It is called the judgment seat of Christ. Paul often spoke of it.

**Romans 14:10 says, ".for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."**

**My Christian brother and sister, may God grip your heart with the truth that every believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

You say, "What is that judgment all about?" It is not to determine whether you are saved. That is as settled right now as it will ever be. If you are God's child, it will never come into question whether you are a Christian or not. Then God will not deal with you as a sinner; He will deal with you as a son. At the judgment seat of Christ, God will deal with His children. That is why Paul says in....

**Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."**

I wish the Holy Spirit would take that verse and burn it indelibly into our hearts. So then every one of us shall give an account to God.

**Beloved ...What will you do with...The Vision of Lost Souls???**

III. We Need a Vision of the Horrors of Hell

Christians need to see a picture of what Hell is like. Christians today act like they do not believe that sinners are going to Hell. Unsaved people do not act like they believe that at the end of a Christless life there is an eternal Hell. I believe with all my heart that we need a vision of the horrors of Hell. The Bible says so much about it, yet people think so little about it.

Beloved, I could take the Bible and show you that when Jesus talked about Hell, He never talked about it as much to the unsaved as He did to the people of God or at least to Christian people. I believe when Christians have a vision of the horrors of Hell and what the Bible teaches about it, it will make them the right kind of Christians.

I heard an old-fashioned preacher say one time, "If we had more preaching of Hell from the pulpit, we would have less living like Hell in the pews." I believe we need in America, and we need in fundamental churches, a crusade of old-fashioned, red-hot Bible preaching on the horrors of Hell. It would get people saved and wake them up and make soul winners out of the people of God.

IV. We Need a Vision of the Church and Its Importance

Beloved just as the church needs a vision of lost souls, j the vision of lost souls also needs the church!!!

Who is in that church? People who are born again. The people of God. Jesus said in John 3:5,7, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. . Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Born-again people, bloodshed, Spirit-indwelt, born-again people make up the body of Christ-the bride of Christ.

*What is the purpose the church?*

The purpose of the church is to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In **Mark 16:15 Jesus gave the church's purpose: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."**

V. We Need a Clear Vision of Jesus, Himself

In closing, I believe that we need a vision of Jesus, Himself. Oh, lovely, wonderful Jesus! One day a group of people came to the disciples and said, *"Sir, we would see Jesus"* (John 12:21). That ought to be the heart cry of every believer-*"Sir, we would see Jesus."*

A wonderful experience took place at the Transfiguration when upon that little mountain Jesus took Peter, James and John. While on that mountain two men from Heaven came, Moses and Elias. There was Jesus and five men-six people on that Mount of Transfiguration. Simon Peter got so enthused that he began speaking without thinking. He said, *"Let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias."* God wasn't pleased with that. So we read that after a while when the clouds went back and these two men went back to Heaven, *"When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only"* (Matthew 17:8).

Beloved, God The Father wants us to have a clear picture of His dear Son. I see that picture of Him in the Bible. I thank God that I see that picture of Jesus in genuinely saved people. I know people who love the Lord so much and walk so close to Him. When I see them, I think of Jesus. I see Christ in people who really love the Lord.

Hebrews 2:9 says, "But we see Jesus." **We need a vision of the Lord’.** ‘We need to see Him and love Him and serve Him with all our hearts.

***"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. "-Proverbs 29:18.***

**I want to challenge the church tonight…….because In order for us as a church to succeed we need to put some things in their proper perspective in order for the vision to work…..**

1. **OUR VISION NEEDS TO BE GREAT...**
2. a. Let’s not settle for small numbers!!
3. b. We should strive to double in attendance every year
4. **OUR VISION NEEDS SPECIFIC ACTION-STEPS**
5. a. Give a tract to one person per week
6. b. A congregation of 50 would share the gospel with more than
7. 2500 people per year
8. **OUR VISION NEEDS FAITH...**
9. Faith in the power of the gospel
10. a. To save souls - **Ro 1:16-17**
11. b. To produce souls that have been born again - **1Pe 1:22-25**
12. Faith in the power of the Lord
13. a. To open doors for His prepared servants - **1Co 16:8-9;**
14. b. To empower His servants wanting to do His will **- Php 4:13;**
15. **OUR VISION NEEDS BOLDNESS**
16. a. Virtue displayed often by the early Christians - **Ac 4:13**;
17. b. A boldness based upon our hope in Christ - **2Co 3:12**
18. c. Boldness To say what needs to be said, when it needs to be said,
19. despite the circumstances - **1Th 2:2**
20. **OUR VISION NEEDS PERSISTENCE**
21. a. Not losing heart, for we shall reap in due time - **Ga 6:9**
22. b. Always abounding, knowing that our labor is not in vain - **1Co.15:58**

**Beloved -- Many visions are never realized or become fruitful because people give up too soon!**

 **"Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields,for they are already white for harvest!"**

**(**[**Jn 4:35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%204.35)**)**