

"20/20 VISION FOR THE YEAR 2020"

PROVERBS 29:18

(A NEW YEAR'S THEME MESSAGE)

INTRO: Everyone likes to hear the eye doctor tell them that they have 20/20 vision. Having 20/20 vision means that **you can see clearly at 20 feet what should normally be seen at that distance indicating that you have NORMAL VISUAL ACUITY.** If you do not have 20/20 vision naturally, your optometrist will give you corrective lenses to adjust it accordingly so that you can see properly. We are now facing a BRAND NEW YEAR and would like to set as a CHURCH MOTTO for the year **"HAVING 20/20 VISION FOR THE YEAR 20/20."** That sounds inviting, but what does it mean? It means that around the church ministry our goal this year will be to **SEE THE MATTERS OF GOD'S WORD WITH 20/20 SCRIPTURAL VISION AS WE GO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2020.** Our key text for the year as well as this sermon is PROVERBS 29:18 that says, **"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH: BUT HE THAT KEEPETH THE LAW, HAPPY IS HE."** Let's study this verse today to see how we can apply it to our personal and church life and ministry.

THE LITERAL HEBREW TRANSLATION: **"WHERE HERE IS NO REVELATION THE PEOPLE CAST OFF RESTRAINT: BUT WHO KEEPS THE LAW HAPPY IS HE."**

A BROAD APPLICATION: *This verse has a three-fold application directed to EACH INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN, EACH LOCAL CHURCH, AND EACH NATION OF THE WORLD.*

I. A BOLD ANNOUNCEMENT

"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH"

A. The Nature of the Vision

1. The word "VISION" is literally translated **"REVELATION"** and speaks of **GOD'S TRUTH THAT IS MADE KNOWN THROUGH HIS AGENTS.**

- a. The Old Testament Prophets - God's Direct Messengers
- b. The Written Word of God - The Scriptures
- c. The Living Word of God - The Lord Jesus
- d. The Holy Spirit - The Divine Teacher of Truth
- e. The Present Teachers of God's Word - Pastors, Teachers, etc.

2. The Revelation of God's Truth is **FALLING AWAY** these days.

- a. Many of those who SHOULD be teaching the scripture are not doing so
- b. This is a matter of REPEATED HISTORY

- 1 Samuel 3:1; Isaiah 54:19; Hosea 4:6; Amos 8:11

B. The Necessity of the Vision

1. The Vision is needed to Reveal God's Will and Person

a. We need the VISION OF GOD'S TRUTH because without it people become confused, disoriented and sinful to the point **they cannot be retained!**

b. We need the VISION OF GOD'S TRUTH in order to:

- 1) To Keep the Great Commission
- 2) To Perform God's Priorities and Honor God's Name

2. The Vision is needed to Receive God's Blessing

C. The Neglect of the Vision - "THE PEOPLE PERISH"

1. The word "PERISH" means **"TO CAST OFF RESTRAINT," "TO BECOME UNGOVERNABLE," "CANNOT BE REIGNED IN."**

2. The neglect of God's Truth as revealed in His Word results in people, nations, and religious organizations abandoning themselves to their **OWN SINFUL WAYS AND PERISH FROM GOD'S WAYS AND BLESSING.**

II. A BLESSED PROMISE

"HE THAT KEEPETH THE LAW, HAPPY IS HE"

A. The Identification of the Law

1. It is synonymous with the Scripture
2. It is ALL the combined elements of Scripture
3. It is the FOUNDATION of God's Truth

B. The Influence of the Law

1. It Converts - Psalm 19:7
2. It Blesses - James 1:25

III. A BOUNTIFUL PROSPECT

NOTE: The believer who maintains a CLEAR VISION of God's LAW has a **BOUNTIFUL PROSPECT** of knowing, understanding and doing all the basic components of biblical principle and practice. **THAT IS OUR GOAL AS A CHURCH AND SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN AS WE ENTER 2020. EVERY BELIEVER MUST HAVE A CLEAR VISION OF BIBLICAL TRUTH AND APPLY IT TO THEIR LIVES IF GOD IS GOING TO BE PLEASED AND IF THE CHURCH IS GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE!**

AREAS OF MINISTRY FOR US TO HAVE A CLEAR VISION OF IN 2020

- A. A 2020 Vision of Scripture
- B. A 2020 Vision of Prayer
- C. A 2020 Vision of Evangelism
- D. A 2020 Vision of Missions
- E. A 2020 Vision of Spiritual Growth
- F. A 2020 Vision of Christian Fellowship
- G. A 2020 Vision of the Local Church
- H. A 2020 Vision of Sanctification

LESSON/APPLICATION

By way of lessons and application, we all should commit to:

- 1) Reading and Studying the Word of God.
- 2) Obeying and Applying the Word of God.
- 3) Sharing and Teaching the Word of God.