



BEREAN
PUBLICATIONS

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A TIME TO BUILD UP

Sunday School Lesson Series by Pastor Greg Neal
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It Is Time To Build Our Vision

Lesson 1

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

INTRODUCTION: Imagine purchasing something perishable from the grocery store with the intention of eating it or using it in a recipe. When we get home, we place it in the refrigerator so that it will last longer. However, after a few days, we have forgotten why we purchased it; and soon, we forget that it is even there. Weeks go by, and one day, while looking through the refrigerator, we come across the item we had purchased. It is rotten and useless. It has perished. I think most of us have had this happen. We did not intend for it to perish, but we forgot the purpose for which we had purchased it. We lost our vision

Life is the same way. Opportunities are perishable. God places opportunities, relationships, and even responsibilities before us; but we forget the purpose, and soon we neglect something important. One day, we realize it has deteriorated, just like the item in the refrigerator. When areas of our lives are left unattended, they have a tendency to deteriorate quickly. This would be a good time for us to take inventory of the things in our refrigerators/lives and reassess their purposes.

The word *vision* in this passage means more than just a dream of or goal for something. It is referring to God's law. We know that is true because we see in the second half of the passage that the person who keeps God's law is happy or blessed. The vision spoken of here is referring to having a vision of God's law in everything we do. Nations perish because they lose sight of God's law. Families perish because they lose sight of God's law. Churches perish because they lose sight of God's law. Individuals perish because they lose sight of God's law. Ministries perish because they lose sight of God's law.

Keeping a Biblical vision is critical in avoiding failure in any part of life. There are several observations we should consider as we anticipate the coming year.

I. WE SHOULD HAVE A VISION OF GOD'S LAW IN EVERYTHING WE DO. This would be a good time to make a list of all the areas in our lives and make certain that we are aware of God and his law in each and everyone of them. Here is a list of things to consider.

- Our family
- Our marriage
- Our friendships and other relationships
- Our children
- Our work or career
- Our ministries
- Our studies
- Our health
- Our finances
- Our testimony or witness
- Our soulwinning
- Our schedule

- II. WE SHOULD ESTABLISH A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE FOR EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES.** Most businesses have what they call a mission statement. Our mission statement is the Word of God. When a business loses sight of its mission statement, it begins to deteriorate. Businesses do not plan to fail; they merely forget their purposes and their perspectives. The same is true with Christians. We do not plan to fail, but we forget to keep the vision of God's Word before us in every area of our lives. We need to take the time to biblically define each area of our lives. If we make God's Word the center of everything we do, we will not fail. The Bible clearly tells us that if we keep the law, we will be happy. Happiness is the same thing as being blessed. We should make a list of every area of our lives and develop a mission statement from God's Word for each one.
- III. WE SHOULD SCHEDULE TIME TO TAKE INVENTORY IN THESE AREAS OF OUR LIVES.** Anything we neglect will eventually perish. There should be times when we reassess and take inventory of every area of our lives on a daily basis, and others, perhaps, on a weekly basis. The beginning of a new year is a good time to take inventory on each one to make certain we have a clear vision of God and His Word as we move forward in that particular area. Spend time regularly on reviewing that mission statement so that we do not lose the vision for that particular area of life.
- IV. ANYTHING IN OUR LIVES THAT IS NOT BUILT AROUND A VISION OF GOD AND HIS WORD WILL EVENTUALLY PERISH.** The word *perish* means "to be out of control" or "to lose restraint." Just as the item in our refrigerator deteriorates and becomes useless, so does that area of life in which we lose our vision of God's law. Anything left to itself will deteriorate. We must make certain that we are constantly applying the imperishable principles of God's Word to the perishable areas of our lives.
- V. STAY IN GOD'S WORD DAILY AND APPLY THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF LIFE.** The purpose of the Bible is to guide us. Taking the time to read and meditate upon God's Word on a daily basis will help us keep a better focus on every area of our lives. Being faithful to church is important as it refocuses our attention on His Word. We must learn to apply the Bible to our lives so that every area maintains a biblical vision.

CONCLUSION: As we begin a new year, let us make certain that our vision is clear in every area of our lives. This would include setting the right goals for the coming year. Rather than making empty New Year's resolutions, perhaps it would be better to establish a biblical mission statement for each area of our lives for this new year. When the year is over, we can look back and wonder how so many things got away from us and became out of control; or we can rejoice at the blessings of God because we kept His Law in front of us in everything we did.

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