

Upcoming Events

Budget preparations for 2018
Ladies Bible Class: Today at 4:00 p.m.
Establish Master Calendar for 2018
Christmas Day: December 25
Corporation meeting: Budget/Financial Report
Hebrews class Thursdays at 11:00

Quotes about "Vision"

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." Helen Keller

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground." -
Franklin D. Roosevelt

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 27 Sue Tanner 29 Noah McKnight
30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

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Are We Prepared: Vision

Excerpts from article by Sam Willcut

As we approach the end of this year, we are likely already making plans for a new year, Lord willing. Of course, many people misunderstand what James declares in James 4:13-16. James is not condemning the act of making plans, setting goals or exercising vision; he is condemning the practice of those who do so without any regards for the will of God (James 4:15), realizing that plans, goals and even vision may change. By principle and example, the Bible teaches that exhibiting vision is a positive trait of leadership.

Just as Nehemiah demonstrates, we need to be able to use vision in looking ahead. We cannot ignore the condition of the world around us; neither can we ignore the condition of the church at present! The church must have vision! The church always goes forward when men are in front dreaming dreams. As someone said, "The whole world follows the man who knows where he is going." The inspired wise man said, "*Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint*" (Proverbs 29:18). Is the world wiser than the children of God are when it comes to vision? If science, business and medicine use vision, where is our planning for the future of the eternal souls in the kingdom of God? Where is the congregation who has the faith to plan and the knowledge to know where it is going? Where is the congregation with a printed plan for the next year, the next decade or even the next generation? So often, we are our own worst enemies! Too many congregations are not even keeping up. They barely know what is going on around them today, much less looking for greater achievements. As one has stated, "The greatest shadows of life are caused by standing in our own sunshine."

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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(Address Service Requested)

Let us consider one more important point—we need to have vision to be able to steer clear of the dangers that lie ahead. The Bible describes the children of Issachar as *“men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do”* (1 Chronicles 12:32). Unfortunately, Christians who lack vision fail to have an “understanding of the times” and are caught unawares in the dangers that satan puts before us. Christians need to have vision to steer clear of the effects of denominationalism on the church. We ought to see ahead at what the ecumenical spirit may do in the church of our Lord and be ready to reprove such when necessary (cf. 2 Timothy 4:1-4). Christians need to have vision to steer clear of the effects of psychology and sociology on the church, knowing the futility in humanistic thinking (cf. 1 John 2:15-17). Christians need to have vision to steer clear of the effects of the entertainment industry, and what it is doing to religion today. Christians need to have vision to steer clear of the effects of atheism (Psalms 14:1). Christians need to have vision to steer clear of the effects of the world and its measure of success (cf. Luke 12:15; Revelation 3:17). Leaders of the church need to have vision, and will fix their gaze on the word of God and the Lord Himself as they make plans for the future. Praise God, the future of God’s people is bright!

A Time for Reflection

By Dan Jenkins

(Slight modifications and personalization by editor)

Is there any better time for reflection than the end of a year? In less than three weeks the year 2018 will be history. We are one year closer to the time of our death and one year closer to determining where we will spend eternity. Consider the following thoughts which seem so timely as this year comes to a close.

Am I numbering my days? This question comes from a consideration of Psalm 90. *“The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years . . . so teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”* So many fail to sense the reality of their coming death. It may be

hard for someone at 25 to think they have lived a third of their lives or someone at 35 to understand they have lived half of theirs, but as this year comes to a close, count the days we have left!

Have I forgotten His grace? The end of a year provides a time to look backward to where each of us has lived. There are no degrees of being lost. Each of us, in the past, was just as vile and lost as mass murders or child molesters. It is by His grace we live. Peter described what was happening in the lives of some Christians in his day. They had become Christians but had become barren and unfruitful and were spiritually blind. What had happened? What could cause a man to arrive at such a situation? He had “. . . *forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sin*” (2 Peter 1:8-9). When we glory in our own “goodness” we lose sight of His. Have you forgotten His grace?

Have I buried the past? Obviously, one can never forget the past, but far too many live in guilt and have the lowest self-esteem. We must learn to live in the present and let God deal with what has passed. He has forgotten it and so must we. Paul described himself as the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), who had become what he was by God’s grace (1 Corinthians 15:10). Look at this principle by which he lived: *“But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal . . .”* (Philippians 3:13-14). A new year awaits each of us. The old one must be forgotten, for there is a new year before us with greater opportunities and challenges!

I alone will determine what kind of year I will have in 2019. A precious brother (Harold Pack) told me when he awoke each day he had a decision to make. “Will I have a good day or a bad one? I may have headaches and pain, but I can have the best headache day I could possibly have.” Apply that to 2019. It will likely have adversity, but our attitude towards problems determines if the year will be a good year or bad one!

May God continue to bless us all!