



Preacher's Pen points

About Vision

Helen Keller was once asked whether there was anything worse than being blind. “Yes”, she replied, “It is having sight but no vision”. Thought provoking, isn’t it!? Almost everyone has eye-sight, but few have the kind of vision of which Keller spoke. Vision is a clear understanding of the purposes of God for His creation. Vision is the knowledge of how to make those purposes come into being and the capacity to see the things that are detrimental to them. Every person needs this kind of vision; and every organization needs this kind of visionary leadership.

Family Vision

Every family member needs a vision of what God had in mind for the home. When God created the first human pair He blessed them with the command to “*be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*” (*Gen. 1:28*). God was not merely interested in a large world population. Instead this command was just a step toward a greater spiritual purpose. God created the home to bring into existence souls who would be with Him in heaven. Through the nurturing environment of the home, children would be taught to know, love, and serve God so that they could be with God forever.

God has entrusted His vision to the father in each home. He urges them to bring their children up “*in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*” (*Eph. 6:4*). The visionary father makes this the number one priority of fatherhood—to bring His children to the Lord! He seeks to learn how he can do the best job to shape and mold the children God has given him into people of faith and obedience to God. He watchfully guards them from the forces of evil that might supplant God’s purpose.

Church Vision

In a similar way, God had a purpose for the church. It too was designed to bring glory to the Lord by “*bringing many sons to glory*” (*Heb. 2:10*). The church in many ways extends the work of families, uniting the saved together into a body where they may mutually teach and encourage one another, to help each other become the kind of children that God seeks. Thus the primary goal of the church is to train and teach the saved.

But in addition God has entrusted to all who know His saving purpose the work of proclaiming His message among men and bringing others to know the salvation He has planned in Jesus Christ. We are “*the pillar and ground of the truth*” (*1 Tim. 3:15*). We become God’s means of imparting His message to a world under the influence of Satan and sin.

God has entrusted His vision to the elders in each congregation. Their job is to take care of the flock entrusted to them—to teach them, to support them, to correct them, to guard them from evil, and to encourage them to remain true to the Lord. The church today needs such men with God’s vision burning in their hearts.

Your Vision

I challenge each of you to take a closer look at your eye-sight. What do you see? What vision do you have for your family? What vision do you have for God’s people? What plans do you have to help achieve God’s ultimate goal of “*bringing many sons to glory*”? Keller was right! To not see God’s purpose may be the greatest blindness of all! Let’s make sure we are not only seeing it very clearly, but acting upon it!

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)