

## **The Need for Greater Eternal Vision**

**Hello my dear friends.**

**Today we want to speak on the need for a greater eternal vision.**

**Because - Many Christians are very shortsighted.**

**We are living too much for this earthly life, not in view of eternity.**

**This life is short, very short. It is only a preparation for the next life.**

**So, how we invest our time, talents, and substance is very important.**

**Where's our heart? Where are we placing our deepest affections, desires?**

**Jesus warns us, do not lay up for yourselves treasures on the earth.**

**(man's approval, worldly attainments, money, our home, car, clothes,)**

**At the moment we die, we can't take any of these tangible things with us.**

**But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Mt. 6:19-21**

**For where your treasure is, that is where your heart is.**

**We need to invest in our character.**

**At the moment we die, our spirit comes out of our body.**

**Who we are in spirit, in character, is what we're taking with us into eternity.**

**When resurrected, our spirit is rejoined with our resurrected body.**

**Who we really are in character is revealed in our new body.**

**So we want to invest in having a better resurrection. 1 Cor.15:41-42)**

**And we want a position in heaven close the Lord.**

**According to Matthew 5:19, some are great in the kingdom of Heaven.**

**And some are the least important in the kingdom of heaven.**

**Are we investing in eternal values, or just earthly values?**

**Proverbs 29:18 tells us - "Where there is no vision, the people perish:**

**The word *perish* means "to cast off all restraint", to live carelessly.**

**Without deeper eternal vision, many Christians live carelessly.**

**Hosea 4:6 - "my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."**

**Today there is a very shallow gospel being preached in the church.**

**It is an easy, lazy, gospel, where God does not require anything of believers.**

**This is the reason I believe God is allowing a worldwide crisis.**

**This is God's mercy to get the attention of many who are not living right.**

**A number of years ago, I heard a story that has remained with me:**

**If it were 3:00 a.m. in the morning and you were walking down the street,**

**And you saw someone's house on fire, what would you do?**

**Would you say, I don't want to bother them at this time in the morning.**

**Of course not — You would scream and beat on their door.**

**Or you would throw something through the window to get their attention.**

**You would take drastic action to save their lives. They were going to die.**

**Similarly, God is taking drastic action to save people who are perishing.**

**This epidemic is God's mercy to save people who are eternally endangered.**

**Recently, I saw a Gallup poll that said this:**

- Less than 10% of evangelical Christians are really committed.**
- Only about half of them read their Bible once a week, or not at all.**
- Less than half of Christians know what the Great Commission means.**
- That is when Christ charged us to go into all the world and preach the**
- gospel to every creature that is under heaven. Mark 16:15**
- According to statistics, only 7% of Christians lead other people to Christ**

**The condition of a nation depends on the condition of the church.**

**And the condition of the church, depends on the condition of its leaders.**

**So now I would like to read a familiar passage in Matthew 24:5 -**

**“Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”**

**Recently the Holy Spirit has applied this verse to me in a different way.**

**Today, many people are not saying that they themselves are Christ.**

**NO - Most people would not believe that anyway.**

**But many preachers are coming in the Lord's name**

**They are saying that Jesus is the Christ,**

**They preach that Jesus Christ is God, he is the only way to heaven.**

**That by his blood we are forgiven, healed, blessed, and have prosperity.**

**All these things are very true. But here is the greatest deception of all!**

**They only select certain verses of Scripture, and totally omit other verses. Do you know that only telling half the truth can become a terrible lie. A very shallow gospel is being preached in the church world today. That Jesus paid for all our sins, - there's nothing more that we need to do. Just invite Christ into your heart, and claim him as your Savior.**

**One preacher declared, once you are born, can you be unborn? Of course we cannot be unborn, but we can die. Jude 1:12 - twice dead. "These are ... trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;" (born-again Christians who turned away from Christ)**

**There are many who say yes to Jesus, but later turn back, offended. John 6:66 - many of his disciples turned back.. walked with Jesus no more. Jesus warned in Matthew 24:10-13, that when persecution comes, Many would be offended, and the love of many would turn cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. These verses are never preached from many pulpits.**

**Listen to 2 Peter 2:20,21:**

**"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."**

**Once we have accepted Christ, we must continue to walk with him. The word "continue" is found often in scripture. Here are a few:**

**John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"**

**John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."**

**Acts 13:43** “Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.”

**Acts 14:22** “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (*you never hear that preach in the pulpits today*).

**Romans 11:22** - “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” IF signifies conditions.

“Colossians 1:22-23 tells us that God is able “to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:” “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard...”.

Can we see this, — there is God's part and our part.

God has paid such a price. He has paid our debt on the cross.

There is no way that we can earn salvation by our works alone.

But there are things that we must do, after we receive Christ as our Savior.

Several years ago I had my church study the New Testament.

I asked them to copy the verbs (action words) that God requires us to do.

We found several hundred verbs, actions, that God requires of us.

These are actions that Christians need to do, after new birth.

We will list a few of them now.

## **Verbs of the New Testament**

**(Actions God Requires of Us)**

**All by his grace**

**words of Jesus - ASK, SEEK, KNOCK (implying effort, action, diligence, dedication)**

**ABSTAIN FROM** all appearance of evil, From fornication

**BEAR** one another's burdens

**BE VIGILANT** (on guard, be alert)

**BE FAITHFUL**

**BE HOLY** for I AM holy

**BE AN EXAMPLE, BE STRONG** in the Lord, in grace

**BE INSTANT** in season, out of season

**BEWARE** of Covetousness

**BE MERCIFUL, BLESSED** are the merciful

**BLESS THOSE** who curse you

**BE NOT WEARY** in well doing

**BRING INTO CAPTIVITY ...** wrong thoughts

**CAST** all your cares upon Him

**CONTENT**

**CONFESS CHRIST** before men

**CONFESS YOUR SINS**

**COMFORT** one another

**DEFILE NOT** the temple of God

**DEPART FROM** iniquity

**DRAW NEAR** unto God

**DO GOOD** to those who hate you

**DIE DAILY** to our own will

**DO THE WILL OF GOD**

**ENDURE** to the end

**ENTER** the narrow gate, so many go to the wide gate that leads to destruction.

**ESTEEM OTHERS** better than yourselves, honor others before yourself

**FLEE** youthful lusts

**FIGHT** the good fight of faith

**FEAR NOT ...** many things. See that ye be not terrified.

**FOLLOW** righteousness; peace and holiness; charity

**FORGIVE, and we will be forgiven**

**GLORIFY God, in your body and spirit**

**HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST**

**HEED to what the Spirit is saying**

**HUMBLE YOURSELVES**

**HONOR father and mother; others**

**HONEST in heart; to all men**

**INCREASE - increase in love; the fruits of righteousness; Lord, increase our faith**

**IGNORANT (be not). Be knowledgable, well informed**

**IMITATE the godly examples.**

**JUDGE NOT, that ye be not judged**

**KEEP His commandments;**

**KNIT TOGETHER in love. We are part of each other. Not loners.**

**LAY HOLD of eternal life; we can lose it; lay up treasures in heaven**

**LET NOT the sun go down upon your wrath; have no grudges.**

**LUST NOT after evil things**

**LEARN of Him. He is meek and lowly**

**LEAVE ALL to follow Him**

**LIBERTY - not to be used for the flesh**

**LIGHT - our whole being to be filled with light, having no dark part.**

**MAGNIFY the Lord**

**MORTIFY your members (keep your body under subjection)**

**MEDITATE upon prophecies, promises God gives us; upon God and His Word**

**MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS for your feet. Stay on God's path**

**MODEST (proper, respectable, orderly in dress and conduct)**

**NEGLECT NOT the gift or ministry God has given us**

**OBEY - ODEDIENCE is the hallmark of wisdom. The most important thing.**

**OVERCOME - the promises are only to those who overcome and endure to the end.**

**OWE no man anything - Have financial integrity**

**OFFENDED (Be not offended). Comes from hardening the heart and rejecting grace.**

**ORDER** - all things to be done decently and in order

**PRAY ALWAYS**

**PERFECTING** holiness, in the fear of God Be Perfect. Mature, complete.

**PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS** - wrong concepts of the mind brought down.

**PUT AWAY** childish things. Grow up and be mature.

**PURGE** - your conscience, your old life

**PRAISE GOD** at all times

**PRESS TOWARD THE MARK**

**PROVE ALL THINGS** - test them before God

**PROVOKE NOT** your children to wrath (by being too harsh).

**QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT**, do not grieve Him

**REPENT**, do works fit for repentance

**REJOICE** evermore

**REMEMBER** the words spoken by all the prophets

**READ** the Scriptures

**RECEIVE NOT THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN**

**REDEEM THE TIME**, do not waste time.

**REFRAIN** your tongue from evil

**RENEWED** in the spirit of your mind

**RENOUNCE** the hidden things of dishonesty

**RESPECT** not persons, have no favoritism or partiality

**RESTORE** fallen brother

**ROOTED** in the faith

**STUDY**, apply your hearts unto wisdom

**SEARCH** the Scriptures

**STAND** firm in the evil, difficult day

**STRIVE** to enter through the narrow gate

**SET** your affections on things above. Fix, position your heart in that direction

**SHINE** - let your light so shine before men

**SING** in the Spirit and with the understanding

**STRONG** in the grace which is in Christ Jesus.

**SUBMIT** to those over you

**SUPPORT** and **STRENGTHEN** the weak, the poor, the feeble knees

**TAKE UP YOUR CROSS** daily

**THINK** soberly, not think more highly of ourselves

**UNDERSTAND** what the will of God is; know His ways

**UNITY** - which comes from humilty, meekness, maturity

**UNSPOTTED** from the world

**VESSELS** fit for the Master's use

**VICTORY** over the world, flesh, devil, the Beast

**VISION** - having sight into the invisible world, gives strength

**WAR** a good warfare

**WAIT** upon the Lord, and your ministry

**WALK** in wisdom, walk worthily

**WITHDRAW** from evil people with corrupt minds

**WEARY** (grow not weary)

**ZEAL, ZEALOUS** of good works (wholehearted for God and His purposes).

**The whole Bible is summarized (or capsuled) in just two things:**

**Loving God, and Loving people. These two commands summarize the Bible.**

**Matthew 22:36-40 The condition of our heart toward God, and toward people.**

**The only two things that remains when this life is over —**

**- Is the work we have allowed God to do in our hearts. Our character.**

**- And the people we have invested in. Remember, people are eternal.**

**Our inheritance is two things:**

**1. The Lord is our inheritance. (closeness to God depends on our character).**

**2. A people for an inheritance**



**In closing, let us repeat what we have already said.**

**We need greater eternal vision. Otherwise we live carelessly.**

**Without eternal vision we live carelessly.**

**Many go through the wide gate that leads to destruction, even Christians.**

**Few go through the narrow gate that leads to life.**

**Remember, there is Gods part, but also our part.**

**There're many things we need to do, but even this is all by God's grace.**

**We cannot do it in our own strength.**

**I would like to make available to you, my book on God's eternal plan.**

**It is entitled - Declaring the End From the Beginning. Also other books.**

**My website: [zionchristianbooks.com](http://zionchristianbooks.com)**

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