

Vision 2.0
Why Am I Here
Proverbs 29:18
September 3, 2017
Labor Day Weekend

For these two weeks, we're going to spend time talking about the significance of having a vision. Whether it's a vision for your life, your family, your career, your retirement, or your finances – a vision of where you want to be someday is crucial to being able to make it to that place. That vision informs what you do each day and gives you ways to be able to tell if you're making headway or falling behind. Not having a vision can make you feel rudderless, lost without a clear direction and not really sure what all your efforts are going to add up to in the end. I know lots of people who have no particular vision for their lives, young and old. They say things like: "why am I here," or "why bother, it doesn't matter anyway," or "I feel like I'm living out the movie Groundhog Day," or "I just don't know what I want to do with my life." "This is a dead-end job." And here's the best one: "I don't know what I want to be when I grow up."

So, let's do the math. If you *do not* have a vision for where you want to be in your career you will spend 5 days a week working but not knowing why. That means that there are only 2 days a week that you're living out your vision – at least the one you have about having fun and enjoying life. That means that you are spending an average of 20 days a month without a purpose or a plan other than the one the boss has. It means that you are spending an average 240 out of 365 days a year without a clear reason why you are working that job or going to that place. It means that if you work from the age of 16 to the age of 65 you will spend 49 years or approximately 11,760 days of your life doing something that is not satisfying and is not helping you achieve the vision God created you for. Without a vision, you will end up just going to work and living for the days off and the vacations you get. We all know people who do that. As a matter of fact, we all talk about our lives that way, right? We say thing like: "oh, it's Monday and I have to go to work." Or we count down the weekdays as we look forward to the weekend.

We even have terms that mark special moments in the weekly countdown like HUMP DAY and TGIF. All because we don't have a vision that is motivating us to give 100% each day to a God given plan for our lives. And we run the risk of living meaningless lives outside of weekends, holidays and vacations. I don't want to spend 240 days of my life each year doing something that is not moving the needle and getting me closer to fulfilling the vision, the plan, the purpose God has for my life. I'm here for a reason and I am not going to waste it doing something that is not fulfilling, and not focused on realizing the master plan for my life. Is anybody with me? Good, then let's talk about how we can be the vision people God created us to be.

Turn with me to Proverbs 29:18. Look at what it says: ***When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.*** Many of you have heard this verse before but it sounded different...here's how you may have heard it: ***Where there is no vision, the people parish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*** KJV Where there is no vision, where there is no divine guidance that is recognized and accepted by the people, those people will run wild. Think of it this way, it's a college dorm...get a bunch of 18-21-year-old young people who don't know what they want to do with the rest of their lives and put them in housing together. Is it any wonder that bad stuff happens? By the way, quit sending your kids to college thinking they will find their way. Help them instead to find the vision God has for their lives and if college helps achieve that vision then send them off. If not, stop the bus and the check book drain. This passage is coming from a book of wisdom written down as the wisdom of God for all of us to hear. If we want to be people of God and live according to the ways of God then we need to hear that to live our lives without a vision is dangerous and to live a life directed by God's vision is wisdom.

You see, when you don't have a vision for where you want to be and what you want your life to look like, every opportunity will seem like a good one and you can be, as the Bible says, blown around by any and every wind that comes along. Without a clear vision in your life it will feel like every decision you have to make will undo you. A visionless life is like shooting an arrow but there's no target. You will miss the mark every time

because there's no goal, there's no end in sight, there's no target to shoot for, there's no vision that is waiting for what you do today that will get you one-day closer to making that picture in your mind into a reality.

For most of us, that **vision starts with** what I like to call a "**Holy Discontent.**" For those of us who believe that God is active and moving in the world and equally moving in the lives of those who trust in God, we know that from time to time we feel this unsettled, disturbance [Pic: in the Force] in our souls. And for the believer who is praying that God will bring resolution to problems, will bring healing to broken people, will bring hope to damaged lives, will bring peace to chaotic moments...we also believe that God moves in people like us to bring those solutions.

Vision starts with a "Holy Discontent."

Where there is no vision, the people perish... Proverbs 29:18 KJV

We know that there are millions of problems in the world and that God believes that we can be the answer. And so, God stirs up this holy discontent in our lives and causes us to lose sleep, and ask questions and consider solutions. And in the process of that holy discontent, God gives us a picture of how it can look differently, how it can look better.

All those things that you just heard that are true for us personally are also true for organizations and businesses and churches like CrossPoint as well. A vision of what God wants for CrossPoint is vital to who we are as a church. Over a series of months of prayer and consultations, God has given our church a picture of how God wants us to look by 2020. It's both exciting and challenging. So, we'll spend two Sunday's looking at the picture God is drawing for us. You're going to want to see this! But first, I think it's important to lay some foundation before we build the house. So, let's talk about what vision is and what it is not. Are you ready...let's go.

Vision is a picture of what the future can look like. Let me say that again, because this is really important. Vision is a picture of what the future can look like. A vision has the ability to bring clarity and significance to our lives. It is more than something that could be done, it's something that should be done. And without a clear vision, it's likely you'll ask yourself questions about whether life really matters, or is it all worth it. **Vision gives meaning to the mundane and significance to the simple things.** Vision can change an otherwise boring day into a day that got you one step closer to what you believe things need to look like.

Vision gives meaning to the mundane and significance to the simple things.

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful. Proverbs 29:18 NLT

Let me put it this way. I recently had a conversation with a person who, after two years of sitting into a job where it looked like advancement was not possible, he received notification that he was being moved up in the corporation. During those two years he was frustrated most of the time because he saw no way out and no way up. Because of that, he was constantly looking for another place to go, looking for opportunities for a change, looking for the next strategic step that might open a new door. Time after time those doors remained closed. Then one day, it all broke loose and doors started opening at the corporation he was in, in several directions. He was surprised and elated. Finally, after two long years things were looking up. Then, one month after those doors opened, a very different door opened. One of the places he had been looking at got in touch with him and said, if you're still interested we'd like to interview you. His first thought was, now what do I do. Doors have opened, I was excited, and now this opportunity is right in front of me. Wow, what should I do? So, I took a moment, said a prayer and asked this simple question...what do you want to do with the rest of your life? And, does this new opportunity get you there?

The picture God plants is one of a preferred future, of a vision of what things could look like if God was in charge. And if we are open to that vision God will begin to use us to turn that vision into a reality. That vision will become the reason we exist, the reason we're here...or what Pastor Andy Stanley says is our "why." God's vision answers the question: why am I here? God's vision for your life answers the question: why am I doing

this. God's vision for our church answers the why questions for us. Why are you here at CrossPoint, why are you involved, why are you attending this campus or this service, why are you sitting on your gifts and not getting involved, why are you a part of this family.

God's vision becomes the answer to our "why."

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A vision can answer the why questions you have in your life and give you a new reason to get out of bed in the morning, a new reason to love your family, a new reason to serve at your church, a new reason to go to work at that job or a reason to look for another job. A vision will stir your heart, get you excited, and give a brand-new motivation and passion for life. If you've never had a vision this will feel invigorating, refreshing, thrilling, and energizing. You will open your eyes, tune your ears, adjust your whole life so that you are making that vision a reality. You may find that you have direction in your life for the very first time...that for once you are clear on why you are here and what it is you are supposed to be doing. You'll sleep better, lose weight and lower your cholesterol when you have a clear vision. Okay...maybe not all those things will happen but, you're catching my drift here, right.

A vision has the power to change every aspect of your life and the lives of everyone around you.

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Do you want that kind of life change? Look, the world we live in can't bring that kind of change into you and me, only God can do that. The stuff of this world fades and rusts, and degrades over time. But, the things of God, the visions God has for your future, our future, this church's future will not fade or falter because they are supported by the powerful hand of God. That's the vision I want for my life, one that will not falter or fade but, will instead get brighter and bolder as God brings it into existence.

So, what vision has God given you. Is it a vision for what your family can and will look like? Is it a vision of the career path you are supposed to be following? On this Labor Day it's good to point that out, right. Is it a vision of how the end of your life looks? Is it a vision of how your church will impact lives for an eternity? Is it a vision of how you can use the gifts God has given you and why you are here on this earth, in this place, at this time?

We are going to come before God today to receive communion...the spiritual and physical reminder of God's presence with us and the love of Jesus for us. As you come forward today let me ask you to pray about God's vision for your life. Ask God why you are here and what does God want you to do with your time on earth. Ask God to give you a clear picture of how things can look if you can just trust in Him. Ask God to open up your heart and your spiritual eyes and show you His vision for your life. Next week...we're going to talk about the vision God has given to CrossPoint Church. I can't wait to share that with you next week. But, today, let's come before God...