

God: Deepen my Vision

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I. Introduction.

A. Where there is no vision the people perish. (Proverbs 29:13)

B. It is not easy to develop vision.

II. The call of the lost comes from:

A. The shortness of time.

1. There is a need to fulfill the Great Commission. (Psalm 90:12)

2. We are to be busy in the best things and not in merely the good understanding the times. (1 Kings 20:40, 1 Chronicles 12:32)

3. We are to redeem the time understanding what the will of God is. (Ephesians 5:14-17)

B. God's Word.

1. We must believe that the world is really lost and that every non-Christian we meet is headed to hell. This determines our motives and whether we are going to be a spectator or a participant. There are too many spectators.

2. God wants all people to be saved—this is always on His heart, but we can be woolly about the condition of the lost world. (John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:4)

3. The Word of God helps to keep our perspective on eternal things. Seeing lost people alone will not give one a vision of the lost world. (Jeremiah 23:29, Isaiah 5:14-15)

C. The waiting world.

1. World statistics: 1000 Buddhist groups, 2000 Hunn Chinese groups, 3000 Hindu groups, 4000 Muslim groups, Tribal groups and 2000 other groups.

2. The time is passing and we are not saved. (Jeremiah 8:20)

3. Cities will need to be strategically targeted in the future as they become the center of the population. (Psalm 60:9)

D. Our own "Jerusalem."

1. You must be effective where you live first if you are to be effective elsewhere.

2. Our nation is forgetting God.

3. One of the great challenges that we face is the bold evangelization of nominal Christians in the West.
4. One should fast and pray and witness to friends in his own circle.
5. God will use us by His grace among those who are seeking. (Romans 10, Isaiah 60:22)

E. The Holy Spirit and personal conscience.

1. We need to cultivate a clear conscience before God. (Acts 24:16)
2. There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, “Your will be done,” and those to whom God says, “Alright, have it your way.” (C.S. Lewis)
3. We should look forward with the hope that one day we will rejoice at what God has done through us.

III. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. What is your personal reaction to the state of the world concerning the large amount of other religious groups and the growing urban population? What are some ways they might be reached?

2. Why is seeing the lost not the same as having vision for the lost? Explain.

3. What is your part in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. How might God be calling you now to participate? What will you do to determine God’s future plans for you in regards to missions?
