

United We Stand, Divided We Fall pt 2: “Jesus’ Vision for Us”

November 8th, 2020 | Pastor Al Brice

1. Jesus can call, save, forgive, and appoint anyone who will repent of sin, receive Him as Lord, surrender his or life totally to His purpose, and be filled with the Holy Spirit for the empowerment of service to the world around us.

Then Jesus gives us the Heavenly Vision that never changes, individually and corporately as His church. This heavenly vision is not from the world ways of doing things or to blend in with the prevailing culture or developed by Christian religion or organizations, but it is given from God Himself, given to Jesus, Who gives it to His Church through the Holy Spirit. This heavenly vision is the true purpose of the Church and is eternal. Any vision that is from the world or religion’s perspective is only temporary and changes depending on what is happening in society and the culture. God’s vision is eternal and never changes because God never changes. **(Malachi 3:6a (NKJV) - “For I am the Lord, I do not change...”)**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV)

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- A. “If you only live for that which is temporal, then you will lose focus, love for, and eventually forsake that which is eternal. **(2 Timothy 4:9-10 (NKJV)** “Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...”)

Living for the temporal will produce envy, jealousy, strife, self-ambition, arguments, a desire to be number one, instigates criticism, unforgiveness, promotes disputes, and divisions. If you live with a temporal vision then I’m only concerned with the church servicing me, what can this church do for me, how can this church benefit and cater to me, and what can I get out of this church because they exist to serve and meet all my needs and must be there for me at my convenience.

Living for eternity and with an eternal vision will produce love, unity, servanthood, living and working for God’s honor and glory, living for the will of God, taking up my cross, and living like Jesus daily, no matter the cost, and I chose to die daily to myself because I seek first God’s will and His kingdom, not my will be done and my kingdom come, but His. Living for the eternal means that when Jesus places me in a church, that I’m there to serve faithfully, not to be the boss but a servant, helping the church to achieve and accomplish Jesus’ heavenly vision.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NKJV)

“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Matthew 6:19-21 (NKJV)

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth

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nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

B. Why is this so important to focus and major on the eternal?

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NKJV)

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NKJV)

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

2. Jesus' Heavenly Vision for us.

Acts 26:9-32 (NKJV)

“Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

C. God can save anyone and everyone to be a servant and vessel for His use no matter what your past looks like or consist of.

(Paul Recounts His Conversion)

12 “While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

(Hebrews 10:32 (AMPC)) “But be ever mindful of the days gone by in which, after you were first spiritually enlightened, you endured a great and painful struggle...”

14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

(Paul's Post-Conversion Life)

19 “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these

reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” 24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” 25 But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” 29 And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.” 30 When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; 31 and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, “This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains.” 32 Then Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”