



Our House

Framing the Vision

Proverbs 29:18

Week 30
August 3, 2025

LIFE LESSON:

Allow the teaching of the Bible to give direction to your life so that you can find happiness. This is done by reading the word then doing what it says.

I. Without Revelation

Before we get into what this verse means, we need to look at what it does not mean. This verse has been misused for years to get people on board with whatever ideas church leaders have. This one verse has caused some to see that the greatest ability that a pastor can have is to be a visionary that can come up with progressive ideas bringing excitement to the congregation and spread it throughout the community. The question that we must ask is “Does knowing how to design new buildings or being an event coordinator identify a spiritual leader?” Here are just a couple of examples how this verse has been used by some modern-day pastors; “MY IMAGINATION INFLUENCES MY ASPIRATION. In other words, your dreams determine your destiny. To accomplish anything, you must first have a mission, a goal, a hope, a vision. “Without a vision the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18.

-Rick Warren” “Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.” They can’t focus, can’t reach their goal, can’t follow their dream. An older translation says, “Without vision, the people perish.” I’ve seen it with my own eyes – without vision, people lose the vitality that makes them feel alive.”

-Bill Hybels, *Courageous Leadership*, page 31”

Now there is nothing wrong with any of these talents or abilities, but is this the meaning of the word “revelation” as rendered in the CSB, or the more common reading found in the KJV “vision?” This is one

verse that many like to refer to the King James Version because the word vision but other translations use words like “revelation” because that is what the word actually means. It points to prophecy or vision supplied by God through the words of His prophets which we now call scripture.

The silence of a pastor in teaching God’s word is the worst thing he can do to his flock. True revelation or “vision” comes from time in God’s word which directs the path of His people. Psalm 119 shows the importance of needed revelation from God. Psalm 119:33-34 reads, “Teach me, Lord, the meaning of your statutes, and I will always keep them. ³⁴ Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.” The better-known verse 105 says, “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.” God gives us revelation through His word and clarification through gifted preachers and teachers that He has put in our lives. The pastor can spend time in God’s Word and prayer where God can impress upon him ideas that will move the church forward, but the most important revelation we need is teaching of God’s word. In Titus 2:1 Paul exhorts Titus by saying, “But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching.”

II. People Run Wild

What about the second part of the verse? Again, the KJV uses the word “perish” to show the consequences of not having a vision. In the past and even today this word was used to depict people dying to the church dying. So, if the church does not go along with the idea that is placed under this verse, then the church will fall under God’s judgement and die. We must be clear here that if the direction of the church is biblical and the man of God called to be the pastor leads the congregation in that direction it is a dangerous thing to go against him. It is a healthy practice for the church to follow the leadership of their pastor and always make his ministry a joy if possible. Hebrews 13:7&17 read, “⁷ Remember your leaders who have spoken God’s word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for

you.” But the numerical health of the church is not what is in the context of today’s passage. The clear meaning of today’s text is that if people do not have word from God they will run astray and live according to the natural desires of their fallen natures.

The CSB does a good job translating this with the phrase “people run wild.” God gives us boundaries to live within for God’s glory and for our good. Look back at Psalm 29:17 that says, “Discipline your child, and it will bring you peace of mind and give you delight.” Our verse today that follows this talks about giving direction for life by scripture which is the best way to keep people from running wild. This does not mean that everyone who hears God’s word will obey it, but at least they have the knowledge to respond to what God has to say.

III. One Who Follows Divine Instruction Will Be Happy

This is part of the verse that is not heard as much as the beginning part. However, the final part of the verse says a lot in helping us to understand the proper interpretation of the passage. It is dealing with obeying or following divine instruction. Jesus said in Luke 11:28 “He said, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” The revelation or vision that we are looking for is the instruction from God through His word so that our lives and the vision from our pastor for our church will be to direct our paths to follow God and have stable lives that glorify God and be lights to our communities.

Over the next few weeks, we will hear our pastor lay out the direction for our church that you can rest assure comes from the teachings of scripture. We do not want to run wild as a church, rather we want stability and clarity in our thinking and acting out the mission of the church. Ephesians 4:11-14 says, “¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.” Running

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- 1. Has today's lesson challenged the way that you have looked at this verse before? If so, do you agree or disagree with the interpretation presented in this lesson?**
- 2. Explain in your own words what it means to "run wild" without clear revelation from God's word.**
- 3. Do you approach the Bible with full intentions of doing what it clearly teaches?**
- 4. Think about what it means to be happy in following Jesus even though we too suffer in some bad circumstances.**

wild is being tossed around by whatever wave is coming our way. Following the instructions of the Bible will enable us to stay consistent to the truth and have God given direction to our lives.

COMMENTARY USED:

Edwards, James R. 2002. *The Gospel according to Mark*. Grand Rapids; Cambridge: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.