

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“VISION”

I grew up as a leader with the adage “Without a vision, the people perish.”

Famous leaders, like Abraham Lincoln, have quoted it and incorporated it in their thinking.

It is based upon the words of Proverbs 29:18. Various Bible translations have it: “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint. (KJV)” “Where there is no vision the people get out of hand. (JB)” Recently, a student of the original language told me the Hebrew translates: “Where there is no vision, the people live in chaos.”

All of this is to say that having a clear vision is critical. It gives purpose, focus and direction. Without it, anything and everything is allowable leading to a lot of wandering and purposeless activity. Without a vision, a lot of effort is wasted and little gets done.

You see this in students who go off to college. Many begin without a clear vision of what they want to become. They spend a lot of time and effort wandering about trying to find themselves. But when they discover where they want to head in life, productivity and satisfaction grow exponentially. They experience success and fulfillment.

The same goes for ministry in the Church. Without a vision, the congregation lives in chaos. With all the good intentions in the world and with admirable effort, still the ministry does not seem to go anywhere or to accomplish what it could. People living amidst the chaos get discouraged and want to quit. But with a clear vision articulated and followed, there comes a sense that the time and effort is worth it. There comes the sense that things are being done that are essential to God and the work of the Church. People feel their efforts matter.

The next big step for St. Timothy is to come to clarity as to vision for the decades to come. I have been laying the foundation with preaching, Twenty-one Days of Renewal, my seminar “Leadership and a Way of Thinking,” the three mini-seminars this winter and my essay “The Emerging Church.” The next contribution will be an address at the congregation meeting May 22 entitled “What’s In a Name?”

For your personal benefit and the benefit of our mutual ministry, I invite you along.

Love,

Pastor Dean