Be Thou My Vision: Part 4

Zanesville, OH | April 8, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Jer. 9:23-24

**Intro**:

* **Verse 1**: God needs to be my vision. That is, He must be my defined direction for growth. No one wants to stay in one spot for the rest of their lives, they want to grow as a person. The only way to do that the right way, is with God!
* **Verse 2:** I must form a relationship with God to start this path of growing by surrendering to the waters of baptism and living a faithful life.
* **Verse 3:** There is a great spiritual war we fight. We wage battle against the powers of darkness and evil and sin and we do not overcome by the flesh, we overcome by Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the great conqueror and the divine weapons capable of destroying fortresses.
* **Verse 4**: Some of the tools and distractions the enemy uses in the battle are discussed. They are powerful and very enticing and if we don’t have our focus where it needs to be and if we aren’t prepared the enemy will overcome us.

1. **Verse 4- Line 1– *Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise:***
   * **A desire for riches stunts growth**: This tool, this distraction that the enemy uses is an age-old means to get the righteous to fall.
   * When Paul wrote to Timothy ca. 64 AD he might as well have put our names on the letter as well, because the message that they needed then is the same we need now.
   * 1 Timothy 6:7-10; Proverbs 23:4-5; Jam. 5:1-6; Ecc. 5:10-16; Isa. 46:6-7; Lk. 12:13-21; Matt. 6:19-21
   * Don’t put your trust in the uncertainty of riches; it will fail you.
   * **The praise of man is futile**: Among other tools the devil uses is the constant need to receive the glory and praise of man.
   * John 5:44; Lk. 16:15; Matt. 6:1-2, 5, 16; John 12:42-43; Matt. 23:5-7
   * We must not seek the approval of men but rather the approval of God. Men won’t give you eternal life and salvation; only God will.
2. **Verse 4- Line 2– *Thou my inheritance, now and always*:** 
   * **The Lord is my inheritance–**Don’t invest your time and integrity into things that will defeat you and make you weak but put your energy and your time into Jesus who guarantees you an imperishable reward.
   * Psalm 16:5; Jer. 10:16
   * **“Jesus Christ is the same…”:** The Lord will provide; In Him I can have full confidence and trust. He is the same and will always be the same
   * Heb. 13:8; Lam. 3:24; Matt. 6:24-32, 34; Phil. 4:19
   * Let’s put our hope in One who is real.
3. **Verse 4- Line 3– *Thou and Thou only, first in my heart*:** 
   * **God must and always be first:** God cannot be second place, runner up or second best. He must be on top of your list always.
   * Matthew 6:33; Matt. 22:37; 10:37-39
   * **My actions reflect by decision**: I will choose to follow the example of Him who is first.
   * 1 Tim. 6:11-16
4. **Verse 4- Line 4– *High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art*:**
   * **We serve the Almighty God:** The King we serve does not live in a house made with hands. He is the Sovereign Lord and King of Kings and He made a divine choice to love us and call us His children.
   * Isaiah 6:1-3; Rev. 4; 5:1, 7; 6:16; 7:15-17; Isa. 46:5; Psa. 113:4-5; Eph. 1:20-21
   * **He is the most valuable**: The Lord is my treasure suggests He is the most valuable thing to me. He is the most valuable thing we can ever have. When we open our hearts to Him, He will change our lives in ways we could never imagine. Beautiful things will begin to happen but only if He is our treasure.
   * 2 Cor. 4:7; Matt. 13:44; Phil. 3:7-9; Heb. 10:34
   * What the High King of Heaven has to offer to you just cannot be rivaled with another!