

A Clear Vision

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I. Introduction. Text: Acts 20:17-27.

II. Things that cloud our vision.

A. Uncertainty.

1. We can know that God will guide us in the next step. (Psalm 32:8)
2. We do not have to know everything—we only need to know the Guide.

B. Certainty.

1. Paul knew that God would lead him into suffering, and this can cloud a person.
2. A person will suffer with or without God.

C. Tears and trials.

1. A person cannot see clearly when he is crying.
2. Tears can give a person clarity when a person gets alone with God. (Psalm 56:8, Matthew 5:4)

D. The cares of this world.

1. One has to watch out for the pursuit of affluence. (Mark 4:19)
2. God has promised to take care of us.

III. One must not hold his life dear to himself.

A. We want a trouble free life, comfort, a long life, and personal peace. (II Timothy 2:3)

B. If we wish to save our lives we will lose it, but if a person is willing to lose his life he will save it. (Matthew 5:16)

C. God is fully capable of delivering a person from any problem, but He does not always choose to do so. Heaven is the consolation price for those who lose their lives. (Hebrews 11, Revelation 12:11)

IV. How the life committed to God will manifest itself.

A. Service to the Lord in humility.

B. Spending time helping people.

C. Sharing the good news with other people.

Application questions:

1. To which element that clouds vision do you find yourself the most prone? How are you to respond?

2. Who is a model for you in your own life of a person who does not regard his own life as that important? What strikes you about this person?

3. Who can you share the good news with in your own circles this week?
