

IT'S NOT DONE YET

Another athlete – but more importantly an 'Abby'; Abby Waner knows basketball. But she has also applied herself off the court too – where learning has much opportunity and benefit. In this selected quote, she says: "But it's not done yet. We've still got a lot more to do."

It sounds as though Abby has a vision: she acknowledges what has occurred and what has been accomplished; but she also remains open to the future...and the possibilities that may avail given her determination toward the vision.

I don't know Abby Waner, and don't have much to *go on* in forming an opinion or comments. Simply on the quote and her apparent accomplishments, my sense is that she has a vision and is working toward it. Even if our accomplishments do seem as profound or magnanimous; **each of us should have a vision** or some concept of what is important to us – what really matters to us.

A vision is not always very clear or well-understood; again, it is a concept or ideal of which each must or will pursue. Perhaps comparable to a distant lighthouse for the ship, it is a guide though faintly apparent or noticed in routine. To have a vision is to acknowledge that you have worth and value – that you believe that you can make a positive and healthy difference in your community. **A vision promotes that belief and offers something to aspire to or to shoot for...**

In our modern age, a personal vision is challenged by declining moral and ethical standards – a culture that is faltering and declining. Further, the rate of changes and proliferation of technology is causing further gaps and breaches in our community and relationships. **The phenomena of exponential change** have put added pressures on both personal and non-personal (business, government, etc.) visions – because the future is less predictable – even conceivable.

The book of Proverbs reminds us of **the importance of a vision;** from *The Message*:

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

In this translation, the words "people can't see" refers to the lack or absence of a vision – the work and plans of God. **"But when they attend what he reveals"**, they are *in-tune* or communicating with God and our sharing in the vision that God has outlaid for the world...the world to come.

A vision is not only personal, but can be for a group of people (like a corporation). Yet the vision that is described above (God's vision) is for the world – and anyone who chooses to believe/receive God as Lord of their lives. **This vision is ultimate – it is the vision of visions...**

Personal vision of the believer (or child of God) must be subordinate to God's vision; in other words, God's vision must be the basic concept by which our personal vision is developed...and executed or followed. As the verses from chapter 29 of Proverbs indicates, they will "stumble all over themselves" if they can't realize or recognize what God is doing.

There are many noble and honorable visions in our world; as I think about them, the general description would be those that focus on humanitarianism, children, and other's who cannot provide for or protect themselves. Needless to say, **the world offers many disadvantaged and disowned in terms of even the basic necessities** of life. To consider only a few of the many is to realize how fortunate we are in this country, community and homes. The routine and regulated availability of food is just one prime example of what many do not have – and cannot even envision. Again, to consider only few should be both humbling and healthy – in that it puts our condition in better perspective of wants versus needs – and of the sometimes selfish and self-centered attitudes brought on by our changing standards (of living) and prevailing consumption as a society.

To consider these few examples can render some doubt and disbelief in God. The basic question may be considered – even expressed: **"How can this happen; how can such suffering occur?"** But don't site of your faith that believes that God did create a perfect place; but it was his creation (man) that has attempted to spoil it – even destroy it – through greed and other sins. What you see in these few examples is not the work of God, but the work of man – who is naturally inclined to indulge himself at the cost or expense of even other human lives. It is a tragedy like no other, but it is the truth through time and experience: **man's vision is diverse and singular – not complete and holistic.**

Man's vision is about survival at all costs; God's vision is about perfection through the cost of Christ. To compare the two (visions) is really ludicrous – because they are basic opposites and share nothing save the grace of God – both *common grace* and the grace of Christ who was a man himself.

Another Proverb reminds us that **God has a purpose for each of his children**; and from chapter 19: “We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose prevails.” Thus, our personal vision will always be under the guidance of God if we are children of God. Though we may stray from time to time, our path will be made straight by God's providence, his purpose...

What about your personal vision? Well, “It's not done yet.” There is God's vision that you must see – or attend to what he reveals. Remember that when God's purpose prevails in your life, you cannot go wrong? You will still make some wrong choices; **but with a forgiving God and a humbled heart, the purpose will prevail.**