



# THE VISION

September 2017

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*  
**Amen. Matthew 28:19-20**

## August 2017 School Year

### Good Attitude

By Chuck Swindoll

Acts 14:1-20

In his book, *Man’s Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl wrote these amazing words:

“We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last pieces of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: The last of his freedoms is to choose his own attitude in any given set of circumstances—to choose one’s own way.”

I could not be in greater agreement. We make a choice every waking moment of our lives. When we awaken in the morning, we choose the attitude that will ultimately guide our thoughts and actions through the day. I’m convinced our best attitudes emerge out of a clear understanding of our own identity, a clear sense of our divine mission, and a deep sense of God’s purpose for our lives. That sort of

God-honoring attitude encourages us to press on, to focus on the goal, to respond in remarkable ways to life’s most extreme circumstances.

It was that kind of remarkable attitude Paul and Barnabas consistently maintained throughout their missionary journey. The two Antioch-sent servants faced and overcame countless and extreme obstacles with a relentless determination to stay focused on the goal.

We all need a reliable game plan for facing extreme circumstances. The situation that now looms in front of you may be fixable, or it may seem impossible to overcome in your own strength. It might be the result of your own actions, or you may be an innocent victim, caught in the backlash of someone else’s consequences. Whatever the case, we can easily become intimidated, even fearful, and eventually immobile when facing such obstacles. The only way to move beyond that sort of paralyzing stalemate is to learn to accept and trust God’s plan. You release the controls and wait for Him to move. And while you wait, maintain a good attitude.

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# Deacon's Devotional

Have you ever seen a “real” night sky that looked like Van Gogh’s *Starry Night*.....so why would an artist paint the sky this way?

Consider this...When you’re happy, why do you sing instead of speak? Or when you’re in love, why do you speak using poetic words? When we do this we’re expressing ourselves beyond a mere clinical, scientific description, in order to communicate our feelings more powerfully.

I have felt the majesty...of our Lord and Savior...more than once while gazing up at the stars at night. Reminisce with me for a moment...I lived in CA when I was a child...and in 6th grade, students had the opportunity to go to camp for a week up in the mountains.

While at camp one evening the youth counselors took us out to look at the stars to discuss the constellations in the sky. I had never seen the night sky quite like that before. Remember, I lived in CA and the lights from stores, street lights, etc. blocked out the beauty of the stars at night.

- There was a crispness in the air which made everything seem clean, refreshing and new.
- The sky was crystal clear. It was the kind of night we imagine when we think of a chorus of angels singing to frightened shepherds.
- The blackness was a deep, rich, velvet midnight blue.
- The stars were not spots of light but brilliant, magical diamonds that danced and flickered against the dark night. The sky was somehow alive.
- It was awesome to think about the vastness of God’s creation. It reminded me, we are not alone.

When Van Gogh painted *Starry Night*, he was suffering from a debilitating disease. Perhaps Van Gogh felt God’s majesty as I did...and realized he was not alone...I believe Van Gogh felt something so powerful that he went beyond the familiar to express it in his painting.

- The sky swirls across the canvas full of vitality and power that speaks of God’s presence.
- The stars don’t just sparkle; they explode in radiance.
- The earth responds to the movement in the heavens, forming its own lilving waves in the mountains and the rolling trees beneath them.

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## Deacon of the Week

9/3—David Crummett

9/10—Ted Fisher

9/17—Gary Mangrum

9/24—Buddy Hogge

## Nursery Workers

9/3—Beverly West

9/10—Pauline Littell

9/17—Maribel Loveland

9/24—Devon Willard

## September Ushers

Sonya Anthony

Stan Gandee

Seth Gandee

Jamie Moore



## CHURCH WORKERS

## September Tellers

Buddy Hogge

Ted Fisher

## Sun. Sch. Nursery

Sharon/Howard Warren

## Older Children’s Church

9/3—Sarah Saunders

9/10—Jennifer/Derick Hall

9/17—Madison/Seth Gandee

9/24—Charlene/John West

## Younger Children’s Church

9/3—Tracy Williams

9/10—Sonya Anthony

9/17—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner

9/24—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells

- In the village, the windows of the houses glow with the same light that illuminates the universe.
- The cypress trees capture the joy by erupting in a living flame of praise.
- And the church steeple reaches up and points to God.

God's creation, all around us, reminds us that we are not alone; that there is a living, infinite, loving God who sees us and knows us by name. A God whose awesome creation reminds us, that He has never left our side.

- We all suffer hardships...it could be disease, the loss of a loved one, financial woes, addiction,...or any of the troubles that make us wonder whether God knows of our suffering.
- What a tremendous message of hope! Even if our troubles persist, the world around us assures us that God has acted to calm our fears, heal our hurts, and dry our tears.

Let us pray...Dear Heavenly Father, How majestic you are! You have created the heavens and the earth! You have created us for a purpose and gifted us in unique ways! You are in total control of the universe. We trust you for all of our needs.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." —1 Chronicles 16:31 (NASB) You are Sovereign Lord! Amen!

A devotional adapted from Art to Heart

—Leslie Belvin, Deacon



**GPBC W.M.U.  
is pleased to welcome  
AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS**

The national Christian Scout group ministers to girls 5-18 years old. They define themselves as a "Christ-centered leadership and character development ministry".

Our W.M.U. is sponsoring a charter troop of AHG. They will be led by Leslie Cloer, coordinator, and will meet at GPBC on the first and third Monday evenings from 6:30—8:00pm, September thru June. We invite and encourage the girls to participate in church outreach activities such as Operation Christmas Child and Bible School.

This is the American Heritage Girls' Mission Statement: "Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country."

Our representative/liaison with this group is Linda Breaks.  
She welcomes your interest and inquiries.

