

1. We need to decide if we're going to meet 10/10. If we don't, I might schedule a movie night.
2. Next week's LifeLine is Psalm 103:2 .

## LifeLines for September 19, 2022

### Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

#### Proverbs 29:18

**Where there is no prophecy, the people  
cast off restraint, but happy are those who keep the law.**

#### WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

**CONTEXT** – Some churches use this verse to inspire building campaigns or to encourage people to enlarge their vision of what their church could be or how to *grow* their church. This isn't the intent of our verse.

The primary intent of the verse is to address the prophetic revelation of God. It's about receiving divine communication from God, whether through a dream, prophecy or revelation. The term "vision" implies "a lack of God's revelatory Word."

Prophecy, revelation, and visions all referred to a revelation of God's will, or a revelatory word for the people. God was still giving new revelation, insight, & teaching to His people through prophets. Today, we have the Old & New Testaments of God in our hands! We have Jesus, The Word of God, & we have the Holy Spirit for guidance & direction. God does speak to His people today.

Interestingly, the previous verse says if you discipline your child, he'll give you rest & bring delight to your heart & soul. Next, we jump into what it's like with no guidance, vision, rules, revelation, or prophesy to lead or guide us! Let's be sure we see a link between the 2 verses.

#### DIFFERENT VERSIONS

##### NIV

Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. (Last week Ami asked bout wisdom & discernment.)

##### NLT

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

##### ESV

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

##### KJB

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

## **NKJV**

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

## **NASB**

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is one who keeps the Law.

## **AMP**

Where there is no vision (no revelation of God & His word), the people are unrestrained; but happy & blessed is he who keeps the law of God.

## **Good News Translation**

A nation without God's guidance is a nation without order. Happy are those who keep God's law.

## **New Century Version**

Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled, but those who obey what they have been taught are happy.

## **SELAH**

### **BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE**

*Where there is no prophecy...* These would be times when God taught no one; therefore, there was no one to teach others (see [1 Samuel 3:1](#)). There were several times in the OT when God stopped speaking to the people (during Asa's reign & Josiah's & when the people were in Babylon). When there *was* a vision or prophecy, God revealed His will through prophets who directed the course of events in order to cooperate with divine authority. Prophets were the people's instructors.

*The people cast off all restraint...* They ran wild & couldn't be reined in; they had no direction, so they'd follow idols or anyone who lured them & became ungovernable. Such times result in disorder, confusion & rebellion.

*but happy are those who keep the law...* The "law" isn't just the written Mosaic Law, but God's words given to the prophets. This is to indicate the happy state of reassurance & the blessed feeling that comes from obeying the "voice" of God, whether written, spoken, or given through the teaching of the prophets. In the Beatitudes, one interpretation of "blessed" is happy.

What law(s) do we have today?

## **SELAH**

### **RELATED VERSES**

[Exodus 32:25-26](#), When Moses saw that the people were running wild (for Aaron had let them run wild, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, & said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me!"

[Joshua 1:8](#), This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day & night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your own way prosperous, & then you shall be successful.

1 Samuel, 3:1, Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was *rare* in those days; visions were not widespread. (Meaning of “rare”?)

2 Chronicles 15:3-4, For a long time Israel was without the true God, & without a teaching priest, & without law; but when in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, & sought Him, He was found by them. (This & others verse will make you think of last week’s LL’s verse & some of the related verses.)

Psalms 1:1-2, Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the Lord, & on His law they meditate day & night.

Psalms 19:11, Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (“Them” = God’s laws, precepts, decrees)

Psalms 32:8, I will instruct you & teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Psalms 119:2, Happy are those who keep His decrees, who seek Him with their whole heart.

Isaiah 30:21, And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

Isaiah 53:6, All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, & the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Lamentations 2:9, Her gates have sunk into the ground; He has ruined & broken her bars; her kings & princes are among the nations; guidance is no more, & her prophets obtain no vision from the Lord.

Hosea 4:6, (This is God speaking to the people through Hosea) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Amos 8:11, The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. (Reflect back on last week’s LifeLine.)

Habakkuk 2:2-3, Then the Lord answered me & said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end & does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

John 4:22, (Jesus is speaking) You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Ephesians 2:12, Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, & strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope & without God in the world.

Romans 10:14, But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him?

Romans 10:17, So faith comes from what is heard, & what is heard comes through the Word of Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-2, Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many & various ways by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also created the worlds.

## **SUMMARY**

When we aren't taught the Word of God; when we ignore or don't accept the Word of God; when the Word isn't even taught in churches; when individuals don't seek the Lord, when they don't even seek His will or His precepts on their own; people go their own way. They can become lost in sin which, without repentance, leads to death & eternal judgment. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There are plenty of people who read the Bible, check it off their to-do list & go on their merry way. Few invest time to meditate on the Word or seek the truths God wants to reveal. Let's take our time when we read scripture. Let's ask God, "What are You saying to me through these words? What revelation do You want me to take from these verses?"

Fulfillment, happiness & blessings come from keeping God's commandments & Jesus' new commandments. Where the Word of God isn't preached or shared among family members, people are left to ignorance & folly, starving for knowledge of the living God.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many & various ways by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also created the worlds. *Hebrews 1:1-2.*

*Let this verse be a **LifeLine** for you!  
Let's Continue Learning More!*

**SCRIPTURE IS OUR –**

***LifeLine!***

**References:** biblehub.com; biblia.com; endofthematter.com; letgodbettrue.com; thegospelcoalition.org; gotquestions.org.