

**"Where there is no vision,  
the people perish..."**

Proverbs 29:18

Summer 2026



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VISION**

## **WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT?** BY TONY HARRIMAN

Perhaps you've noticed that our world is falling apart; on so many levels, things have stopped working properly. Dysfunction in the natural world is easy to see, though we often take it for granted, telling ourselves, "This is just the way things are." Weeds overtake untended ground, rain floods the places that need it least, and pests ravage our plants and livestock.

Many of Earth's problems are man-made. Pollution chokes the air, plastics overwhelm our oceans, and pesticides cover our food. In the Book of Genesis, the Creator gave mankind our very first assignment: **"...Have dominion over all the earth..."** (Genesis 1:26). Clearly, we have done a poor job. Taking care of the world we have been gifted is vital. In fact, the Book of Revelation speaks of a time when God will **"...destroy them which destroy the earth"** (Revelation 11:18). While that is a conversation for another day, it is clear that God will eventually demonstrate His displeasure to those who disrespect His property.

**But as important as it is to care for the planet,  
there is something even more critical: taking care of people.**

In Matthew 10:31, Jesus reminds us that people are of much more value than sparrows. While the Father notices the plight of every creature that falls to the ground, the blood of Jesus was shed specifically for human beings to atone for and to remedy the fall of Adam.

We see this hierarchy of importance illustrated in the design of the Sanctuary. The earthly Sanctuary mirrors the Heavenly one, divided into sequential sections. First, you pass through the outer court to reach a veil, behind which lies the Holy Place. Passing through that, you meet a second veil guarding the Most Holy Place. This imagery teaches us that some things are more sacred than others—there is that which is important, and that which is **more** important; that which is holy, and that which is **most** holy.

**Jesus applied this same principle of priority to the Law and how human beings should regard God, and how they should treat one another:**

- **The First Great Commandment:** "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22:37)
- **The Second Great Commandment:** "Love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matthew 22:39)

*over please →*

## (Continued – What’s Most Important?)

Jesus didn’t stop there. He provided the ultimate litmus test for our faith, showing us in Matthew 5:43-48 what it truly means to be perfect. Make no mistake—anything short of this is just religious theater:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemies.’ But I say to you, **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on good people and on evil people, and he sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong. If you love only the people who love you, you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than other people. Even those who don’t know God are nice to their friends. So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (NCV)

This is the “software” that needs to be installed into the human gene pool. It might not fix every problem in the natural world—since the earth is naturally wearing out due to the sickness of sin—but a genuine regard for the value of every human being will ultimately allow all genuine Christians to work together instead of against one another. Let’s start there. *TH*

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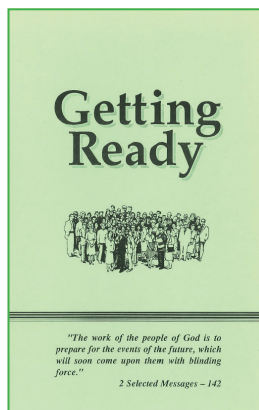
*Excerpts:*

**“God has revealed what is to take place in the last days,** that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble.” ~5 *Testimonies*, 452

**“Transgression has almost reached its limit.** Confusion fills the world, and a great terror is soon to come upon human beings. **The end is very near.** We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.”

~8 *Testimonies*, 28

**“Erelong there will be such strife and confusion in the cities,** that those who wish to leave them will not be able ...” “For this reason I see the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities into retired country (places) where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce.” ~*General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903 / Country Living*, 21



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