



Thursday Thought

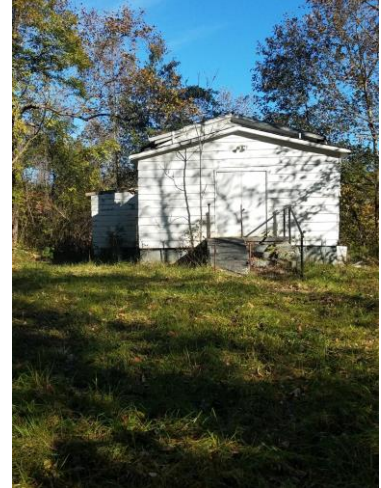
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The Collapse of the Little White Church

Thursday, 11-1-2018

Verse for the week: Proverbs 29:18 (AMPC) “Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.”

I regularly drive by an abandoned little white church and wonder: “What happened?” “What stories do the walls share?” “What was left behind inside of that church?” “What lives were changed in the past?” “What did they stop doing to see lives changed?” That’s a lot of wondering! As I drove by the other day, I noticed a change in the church. No, the lights were not on, the parking lot was not full, the windows were not open, and there wasn’t music coming from the building. Instead, the roof had collapsed. Inside I could see a piano and pews, probably the same way they were left when they closed and locked the doors.



I was once told by a person that **“it must warm the heart of God when an empty church is left standing, because people had enough respect for the building to not tear it down.”** I used to take offense thinking about the comment, because I would think how it must grieve the heart of God to see a church that is abandoned, no longer doing what it was supposed to do. It’s been several years since that statement was made to me, and I still think it grieves the heart of God, but, leaving the church standing may not be a bad thing. It’s a reminder of the verse from **Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) “Where there is no vision, the people perish”.**



Somewhere along the way it appears that the little white church lost its vision, and stopped sharing the love and hope of Christ. Is that the state of the church in America today? If so, God help us. My heart will continue to grieve every time I drive by that little white church and I pray “Lord, please don’t let that happen to the church **I pastor! Help me to cast vision, and share the love of Christ and the hope that he offers! Help me to disciple individuals to relentlessly pursue Jesus Christ and the people he loves!**”

Question to ask yourself: Are you praying for your pastor, your church, and that God will help you relentlessly pursue Him and the people He loves?