

For the next few minutes I want us to consider: **WHAT DO WE SEE?** The physical sense of seeing is a wonderful blessing. It enables us to view the natural beauties all around us. We appreciate the beautiful sunset, mountains, nature, animals, children, etc.

Without the ability to see, we would be hindered in accomplishing many things. We see with our eyes and the human eye is a marvel of biology, acting like a complex camera with unparalleled capabilities. The eye is capable of distinguishing millions of colors, adjusting focus dynamically and processing vast amounts of visual data that is sent to the brain. The eye is fast healing and has limited protection from dust and other particles through the eye-brows, eye lashes, and tears. But perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of the eye is its adjustment from light to dark. Interesting fact is that the eye muscles are the body's most active.

Every day most of us take this marvelous blessing for granted. For those that have lost their ability to see, they are forced to cope with it and make some major adjustments. My heart goes out to those who are physically blind; some were born that way and have never viewed anything while others lose their sight later in life. Let us appreciate all of our physical senses: sight, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching.

While we appreciate our vision, what you see can be either positive or negative; good or bad. Let's consider some examples of what I'm talking about.

I. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POSITIVE THINGS WE ARE BLESSED TO SEE? It is wonderful to be able to see our loved ones, our brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, our surroundings, and the natural realm in which God has blessed us. **Psa. 19:1**, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*"

By way of our eyesight we are able to read and study the Bible. Inspired epistles were written so that we could read and understand the Will of God. **Eph 3:3-4** *How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery*

of Christ). Today there are those that cannot see but can still read by the marvel development of Braille. So those that are physically blind can have access to the Bible in Braille. They can also hear it from audible recordings, or have it read unto them.

II. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NEGATIVE THINGS PERTAINING TO WHAT WE SEE? There is the danger of using our eyes in a lustful way. 1. One of the three ways in which we can be tempted is by way of our eyes. I John 2:16, “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*” Eve was tempted when she looked upon the fruit in the tree in which God told her and Adam not to eat. She was enticed of the devil to disobey God. Gen. 3:6, “*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*”

There is a temptation for man to look upon a woman in a lustful way. By way of a man's eyesight he might look upon a woman and lust for her. Matt. 5:27-28, “*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*” This was the problem King David had. David, who was king over the nation of Israel, looked upon another man's wife and possessed lust for her which led to additional sin (2 Sam. 11:1-5).

Then there are some who refuse to hear the truth close their eyes to it. Jesus describes these people in Matt. 13:15-16, “*For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.*”

III. NOT ONLY DO WE SEE WITH OUR EYES IN THE PHYSICAL REALM, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WE CAN SEE WITH “THE MIND'S EYE.”

The patriarchs who were in covenant relation with God saw with their “mind's eye” the fulfilling of God's promises before they actually became reality. OT prophets wrote prophecies that they didn't understand. It was a mystery to them. They could only see the fulfillment through the eyes of faith. *Heb. 11:13, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

Likewise, we should have vision of what can be accomplished in the name of the Lord when we faithfully apply it unto our lives and reach out on faith to accomplish God's will. I would like to see us have an average of 100 in attendance by the end of the year. Just think of what we can achieve, as a congregation, if we all get involved in reaching out unto our fellowman with the gospel of Christ. Let me add one more dimension. You look around and take notice who is not here and check on them and let them know that they were missed. We can do that without having any kind of visitation program with assignments. You step up to the plate and take care of business.

IV. WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND WE ARE UNDER THE SCRUTINY OF THE ALL SEEING EYES OF GOD. *Heb. 4:13, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”* The Heavenly Father knows everything about us. He even knows the number of hairs on our head. *Matt. 10:30, “...the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”* God knows what we do, what we say, and even what we think. *Lk. 8:17, “For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.”* God also knows what we don't do or say. There are times that we need to do or say something and don't.

Since God sees and knows all, it would be in our best interest to KEEP IN MIND OF WHAT IS PLEASING "IN THE SIGHT OF GOD." We should keep in mind God is always present and observing us and knows our very thoughts. Behind the scene benevolent deeds are known and pleasing in the sight of God. *Matt. 6:4, "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

Private personal prayer is pleasing in the sight of the Lord. *Matt. 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."*

Let us not be blinded by the worlds influenct to the point that we lose sight of what the Lord did for us on the cross. *Heb. 12:2, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.* Let us have the mental vision to see clearly the sacrifice he made for you and for me. With that mental image, let us see what we can become in 2026. *Isa 42:18 Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.* Let us be lookers and seers. Let our vision be clear enough to encourage and exhort one another as we see the day approaching *Heb_10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Invitation