

Ponderings from Pastor Paul

Some of you may be aware that my daughter is unfortunately in her third year of optometry school. I know that may sound like an odd statement, but the unfortunate piece is that she won't graduate for another year. After all, what optometrist wouldn't want a graduation date of 20-20? I suppose it is mine and my wife's fault for not conceiving her a year sooner.

I love my daughter, but I would almost rather go to the dentist than the optometrist. I don't like my eyes getting messed with and I can hardly keep my eyes open with the bright light they shine into the back of my skull. So, when I went for an eye appointment with my future doctor daughter, she found it quite enjoyable to torture her beloved father. And because she is in the learning phase, she took her time to make sure she was doing everything just right. And while I do appreciate accuracy, at times she had to firmly and physically hold my eyes open so she could diagnose me appropriately.

I guess I'm not always a good patient. Of course I trust her, but if I don't keep my eyes open, she cannot help me. If I close my eyes, I don't get an accurate prescription for my glasses and then I don't see well in the rest of my life. If I don't even go to an eye doctor, my vision is blurred and I will never see clearly. If we are to have clear vision, we must have open eyes and see a physician.

As individuals, we are not always good spiritual patients. Of course we trust him, but if we close our eyes to a God who calls us into a relationship with him, we will never truly understand his sacrifice for us. If we close our eyes to the Word of God, we cannot be confident of his will for us. If we close our eyes to the needs of the world around us, we will never see the individuals God is calling us to reach out to. If we never go to see him, our vision will forever be blurred and we have no hope of seeing clearly. We must all work for clearer vision regarding God's work in us and in our lives.

I would like to encourage you to strive for 20-20 vision in your faith life this year. Make regular appointments with the Great Physician. Make an effort to see the only one who can give you clear vision. Find him in his Word, in your prayer life, and in the individuals he places in your path. Keep your eyes open for his work in you and through you and in the world around you.

Vision is a powerful gift. Let us not close our eyes and thereby neglect this gift. Let us rather firmly hold our eyes open and embrace the opportunity to see the one who provides this precious gift.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul