

Ponderings from Pastor Paul

You may tire of my 20-20 vision ponderings throughout this year, but I think it's an appropriate time to bring attention to vision. So settle in, this won't be the last. This month regarding 20-20 vision, I'd like to talk about glasses or corrective lenses.

If you've ever seen my face, you would quickly recognize that I wear glasses. I didn't always wear glasses. As it happens to so many of us, I began to need glasses as I got older. Our eyes age and the muscle strength of our eyes is no longer able to correct our vision on its own. We need some help.

I found out that I needed glasses because I started getting headaches after a long day. It happened because my eyes were getting tired of constantly refocusing. It was an indication that I needed glasses to help me read. At that time, I really didn't need glasses to see at a distance.

But age continued to take a toll on my vision. Regular glasses became bifocals, and bifocals became trifocals, as I came to grips with the aging process. I could still probably drive just fine without my glasses, but we're likely all safer if I keep them on.

Before sin came into the world, Adam and Eve had a clear vision and understanding of who God is. But when they took a bite of that forbidden fruit, sin began to cloud their vision. Their eyes turned toward an exclusively inward focus. They simply could no longer see straight.

We have the same problem today. The major difference is that we never could see God clearly. Our spiritual vision was polluted from the moment we were conceived. We may attempt to fool ourselves and suggest that we can see God and live a good life by force of will, but all it will give us is a headache.

Perhaps one blessing of aging is that I more quickly accept that I no longer have strength on my own to make things right. I need a corrective lens. I need a God who loves me and helps me. I need a God who reveals himself to me at a rate that I can absorb. I need a God who shares his plans with me through his Word. I need a God who will truly allow me to see clearly for the first time.

Jesus came to the earth to provide clarity and hope and vision. Jesus came to the earth with strength to live the perfect life we could never live on our own. He came to make us whole, the way Adam and Eve were in the beginning. He came to provide a way for us to be in God's presence without being blinded by his holiness. He came so we could see. And it cost him his life.

When we get to heaven, we will see God face to face. We won't need glasses because we will see God clearly. What a day that will be! No more trifocals, just the full-on glory of God.

Until that day comes, we need the grace of a corrective lens simply to get us through the day. We must rely on God for our vision for us and for the world around us. I encourage you to seek a vision for God's will in his Word, a vision with an outward focus rather than an inward focus. A vision only God can provide.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul