

Ponderings from Pastor Paul

I want take a look at vision once again this month. And though it is 2020, I want to talk about vision that is not quite so clear. In fact, I want to talk about what is probably the farthest thing from 20-20 vision... blindness.

Having decent vision is nice. It's a blessing I think we take for granted most of the time. Even those of us with glasses or contact lenses just toss them on in the morning and forget about it. Sight is part of our lives and we don't think about it for the most part. Blindness is quite frankly beyond our comprehension.

I remember going on a cave tour with my wife once. She's not a fan of closed spaces, so a cave tour was way out of her comfort zone. When they turned off all the lights at one point, I think she inserted her fingernails multiple inches into my arm. Blindness can be scary.

These days, while there is help for those who are blind, life can still be difficult to navigate without sight. Most blind individuals have others available to help them. In addition, we have seeing eye dogs and crosswalk signals that make noise. Yet blindness can be dangerous.

Sin is a sort of blindness in our spiritual lives. Sin impacts our lives more than we can comprehend. Sin fools us into believing that everything would be just fine if we were in control. Sin pulls the wool over our lives. We cannot imagine what life would be like without sin.

Sin is scary. If we truly understood the impact of sin in our lives and in the lives of others, I believe it would bring true terror to our souls. Our culture tends to minimize the impact of sin. Many suggest that anything someone might do is okay, "as long as nobody else gets hurt." But sin has a far greater impact than we know, on us and on others. There is damage done that we do not see. There is damage that we would often rather not see.

Sin is dangerous. Sin separates us from God. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, they could no longer be in God's presence. For their own good, they could no longer see God face to face. Sin removed the opportunity to see the fullness of God's glory. We are similarly blinded to God's glory because of our sin. Even worse, outside of faith in Jesus, sin separates us from God on an eternal basis. It cannot get any more scary or more dangerous than that.

But amazingly, that's where the good news comes in. We have a God who provided a way for us to see clearly, to not be separated from him. We have a God who loves us enough to sacrifice himself, so that one day we will have the ability to see him face to face. We have a God who desires to restore our vision completely, so we can see the reality of our sin and the wonder of his holiness.

This is what grace is all about. A God who is beyond our comprehension, who we should never see because of our sin, who wants to be with us forever, gave himself for us and restores sight to us blind sinners. Jesus' death and resurrection provide the promise of perfect vision. May we never minimize the gift of physical or spiritual sight, both a glorious gift from God.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul