

Subject: A Clear Perspective in Life

Scripture: Acts 9:1-12

Paul (Saul) lost his physical eyesight for three days, but in the process he received spiritual sight. Nothing is more precious than our eyesight. Some of us need glasses or contact lenses to see clearly. We call them corrective lenses. Nothing is more important than how we see life. The way we look at our life affects the way we live. The way we look at life is called our perspective or world view.

WE ARE BORN WITH A SELFISH PERSPECTIVE

A selfish perspective means life revolves around you and me. Babies are born this way.

- We can have a sinful perspective

***Ephesians 2:1-3**¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

***Titus 3:3** For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

- We can have a self-righteous perspective

This was Paul's problem, as we learn from **Philippians 3:4-8**⁴ *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: ⁵ Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷ But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

WE NEED A SCRIPTURAL PERSPECTIVE

A scriptural perspective means that life revolves around God.

- A correct view of God

God is the one true God, eternal all-powerful, all-wise, ever-present, sovereign, holy, merciful, good, and unchanging.

- A correct view of self

We are all fearfully and wonderfully made. God created all things for His pleasure. That includes you and me. **Revelation 4:11** *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

- A correct view of Christ

We must know the truth about His virgin birth, His perfect life, His atoning death, and His glorious resurrection. In older books we find B.C. / A.D., but in the newer textbooks we find B.C.E. / C.E. (Common Era). All time is divided by the life and ministry of Christ.

- A correct view of life

We must understand the brevity of life and the uncertainty of life. Life is like a vapor, just like the dash on a tombstone.

The Scriptures give us a clear view of God, self, Christ, and life. The Bible is like a pair of glasses or contacts that allow us to see things as they really are.

In Acts 9, Paul had a life-changing experience when he met Christ. Up until that time, Paul (Saul) had a selfish perspective, but when he met Christ all that changed and he had the right perspective.

WE NEED TO ASK TWO QUESTIONS

- Who are you, Lord?
- What do you want me to do?

WE NEED TO REMEMBER TWO DAYS

- The day when Christ saved us

Paul never got over that day. Paul's conversion was so important that it is recorded three times, first in Acts 9, and then when Paul gave his testimony in Acts 22 and 26.

- The day when Christ takes us home

2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

Philippians 1:21 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

Everyone is not called to be an apostle like Paul, but every one of us is called to follow Christ and live for Him. At the end of life's journey, some people will look back and say, "I wish I had lived for Christ." But by the grace of God some of us will look back and say, "I'm glad I did." So many people go through life with their eyes out of focus. God help us to see clearly and live for Christ and His Word.