

“Look not to the things that are seen  
but to the things that are unseen”

Lord Jesus, grant me your Spirit that I would proclaim your word in Truth and Power and that all who listen would hear what you have to say to them. To the glory of the heavenly Father. Amen.

“We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Some folks say they have no trouble with what the Bible Says, what Jesus says. I find some of that strange, hard to take. Yet many of the who say they are completely comfortable with the words of Scripture are fine people, better Christians than I am. “That which is of the flesh is flesh - that which is of the spirit is spirit.”

They seem to understand that under the harsh, difficult words, events, there is something more, deeper, true, even righteous. We see so much in this world that isn't right. Each one of you know in your own lives,

and for the people you know, what you have experienced, much that isn't right, pain, suffering.

What do you look at? What do you see? Do you only see the surface, what is seen and reported? Or do you look past that, deeper? Example, parent looks at his child, other people look at same child. Do they see the same thing? Stranger is amazed the parent doesn't seem to notice how the child is acting. “They should do something.” Parents get glared at, even scolded.

The news media show pictures, tell stories, “Bad news sells.” We get upset by what we hear and see. Is that all there is to the story? Can we see deeper? If we deal with the surface, what is seen and heard, we can miss what is going on. Without understanding, do the wrong thing and make everything worse.

How can we get ourselves to see deeper? Or rather How can God get us to see deeper? How can God get us to see, think, the same way He does? I think He does that by confusing us, saying things in scripture that do not make sense. Actually when we really pay attention to what is going on in our lives and around us in the world, an awful lot does not make sense.

Young people, children, many who are older than that, are told “you will understand when you get older”. In psychology they talk about “mid life crisis”, realizing you are not going to reach your goals. For some that is hard to accept. They have reached their peak and it is all downhill from then on.

Young people have a similar challenge that is basic to really becoming adult. They have to give up the idea they will understand themselves, understand what is going on, how the world, society functions. They have to give up the idea they can or they can with God’s help control their future. The best they, we, can do is be happy passengers on the ship of life. We are not the captain of our souls, our lives. We never will be.

Now I know they are many who will disagree with what I just said. They have been the captain, directed their lives and are reaching the goals they set. The media are full of stories of those people and books and articles how you can do the same. Christians too get in the game with books, workshops, articles, whole churches. Be a success in Christ with us.

Look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature his being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.”

We have no problem hearing the words and understanding them. But really understanding what they mean, that has been a cause of argument for centuries. No matter what you or I think, there are people who think something very different. Of course I am right and they are all wrong.

Does that mean God, Jesus, was not right in saying these things? He knew, He intended it this way. The thoughts, arguments, provoke us to deeper thought. “Look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.” We are called to share our faith in God. God places us here as His witnesses so others might also come to Him.

Faith is the gift of God. You do not believe, I do not believe because we decided to believe, have faith, trust in God. Well yes we did sort of, but we only did

because God gave us the faith, the Spirit, to do so. Have you ever been concerned about someone you care for who does not believe? that someone you care about is on the path to hell? Argue, talk, plead, they don't see it. refuse, stubborn, blind. Pray for them, never give up praying.

They can not believe, have faith, unless, until, God gives that to them. That realization changes the whole situation. There is spiritual warfare going on between God and Satan over them. Our lives are part of that battlefield. We are soldiers in that fight, but soldiers who are passengers on the ship of life, not the admiral, not the captain. Maybe more like the fellow down below stoking coal in the boilers, maintaining the equipment.

Many will be watching tonight the next installment of the A.D. series on TV. It is fiction but gives us an idea of what life was like for the first believers just after Jesus ascended back into heaven. TV & movies always show events up close and personal. Large cities, high officials, governments do not show well. Caiaphas is the Prime Minister - King of the nation. Hard to picture him as a high official surrounded by bureaucrats.

“Look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen” We need to do what the screen writers do. To tell their story they ignore much of what is around - look not to the things that are seen. They focus on the interaction between the characters - to see the things that are unseen.

What is important is not this world and what is going on around us. We see it and it gets in our way. We must see what is unseen, God, salvation, the Spirit of love and power - the unseen. If, when we see the invisible, the unseen, if affects us, it changes how we feel about ourselves, how we feel about that is around and how we deal with that.

We get upset by what we hear and see. Is that all there is to the story? Can we see deeper? If we deal with the surface, what is seen and heard, we can miss what is going on and make everything worse.

See the invisible victorious love of God for you. He changes us as we are washed in His love, fed by His Spirit. Instead of seeing evil people around see them as people who need to be loved, cared for, and

yourself as God's hand, mouth, feet to carry His love to them.

It is His love that makes us good, worthwhile, He did not love us, save us because He saw us as good and deserving. God has given you love, victorious love beyond all understanding, you are held in His hands, your heart and mind are kept in Christ Jesus Amen.

**2 S after Pentecost**

Genesis 3:8-15

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

June 7, 2015

June 14, 2015

June 21, 2015

Ps 130

Mark 3:20-35

Living Water Rosedale

Hymns: 507, 514, 460

Berea

Faith MR