



# THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

*Brooksville church of Christ*  
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

April 24, 2022

## **Spiritual Vision Impairment (Dan Petty)**

Many of our spiritual weaknesses may be compared to physical infirmities. The Scriptures often describe our spiritual ills by using such comparisons. One of the more vivid illustrations is that of vision impairment—the inability to see clearly. By seeing with the eyes of faith, we are led by God along the right paths. “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psalm 119:18). There are different kinds of spiritual eye trouble.

### **Blinded By Deception And Prejudice**

Paul wrote about those for whom the gospel is “veiled.” To explain this condition, the apostle described how “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel...” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). This speaks of the reality of the influence of the

evil one in this world. Similarly, when Jesus taught the Parable of the Sower, he recalled the words of Isaiah about people whose “eyes they have closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them” (Matthew 13:15). The prejudice of a hardened heart allows the evil one to snatch away the seed of the gospel that has been sown (v. 19).

The world, with its alluring temptations, lusts, and appeal to pride, can blind us to what is real. If we are to see the light, we must not allow our minds to be prejudiced and our spiritual vision to be obscured.

### **Walking In Darkness**

The practice of unrighteousness is equated with walking in darkness rather than in God’s light. Walking in the light is not only requisite to the cleansing of the blood of Christ (1 John 1:5-7) but also for our ability to continue seeing our way. John said that the



one who walks in the darkness “does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes” (2:11).

The continual practice of sin has a way of dulling our sensitivities and searing our conscience. By losing the ability to discern good and evil, we have lost our way. If you don't want to get lost, then don't walk where it is dark.

### Shortsightedness

Some people see only what is near. Peter described them as “nearsighted” to the point of being blind (2 Peter 1:9). He used the Greek word from which we get the word myopia. This speaks of a spiritual myopia that causes us to think only of the present, of the here and now. Such shortsightedness may result in failing to remember the past, how we were cleansed from our former sins, and failing to add the virtues of the Christian life to our faith. It may also prevent us from seeing beyond the present to what lies ahead.

We need to see the blessings God has in store for us, as well as the consequences of looking only at the present. “We look not at the things that are seen, but at the things which are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient,



but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18). With the help of the corrective lenses of God's word, we can look into eternity and direct our lives accordingly.

### On The Lighter Side

“Temperance Sunday” was always the fifth Sunday of the month during my growing up years. The whole Sunday school gathered for opening exercises, and the stage was set for a temperance lecture taken from a book designed for such occasions. Stories were told about the ravages caused by alcohol and tobacco, and now and then, an object lesson was given.

One favorite lesson was to drop a worm into a glass of alcohol. The worm quickly wiggled its last. I heard where a class of boys was asked after such a demonstration what they had learned. One little fellow replied, “If you drink alcohol, you won't have worms.” (Light and Life, September 1995, p.2)

Honor lost – much lost.  
Life lost – more lost.  
Soul lost – all lost.

There is a way to stay out of hell,  
but there is no way to get out of  
hell.

## Only A Shadow

Psalm 23:4 is often misquoted by mentioning “a dark valley.” But the word “dark” is not there. It says, “the valley of the SHADOW of death.” There can be no shadow in a dark place. The fact that there is a shadow shows that there is a light in the valley. All death can do is to throw a shadow over the place. Shadows never hurt anyone. We have nothing to fear.

## Harmony In The Bible

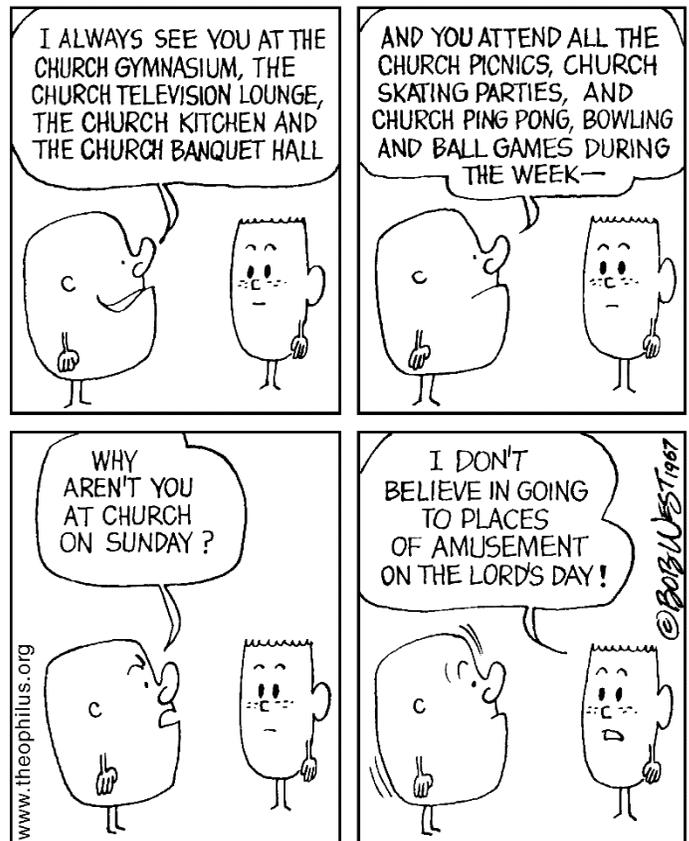
There is a unique harmony in the Bible. In Genesis, the earth is created; in Revelation, it passes away. In Genesis, the sun and moon appear; in Revelation, there is no need for the sun or moon. In Genesis, there is a garden, the home of man; in Revelation, there is a city, the home of the nations.

In Genesis, we are introduced to Satan; in Revelation, we see his doom. In Genesis, we hear the first sob and see the first tear; in Revelation, we read that God shall wipe away all tears from the eye, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, and no crying. In Genesis, we see our first parents driven from the tree of life; in Revelation welcomed back.

THE BIBLE MAY CAUSE YOU TO  
WONDER, BUT IT WILL NEVER  
CAUSE YOU TO WANDER.

THEOPHILUS

*Selective Reasoning*



## Barabbas – His Release (Wilson Adams)

“Barabbas,” said the soldier, “This is your lucky day. Believe it or not, they hate someone else more than you.”

He was supposed to die that day. There were, after all, three crosses – one reserved for him. Instead, Barabbas walked into the sunshine of that Friday morning a free man. Another had taken his place.

The force of impact from this scene is directed not at the notorious Barabbas but one the notorious you and me. We deserved to die. We are murderers with hatred in our hearts. We have committed insurrection against the King of Kings. We are thieves and liars and guilty of man other crimes against God and man. All have

sinned. As with Barabbas, someone else has taken our place.

Maybe you sit in a dungeon of unconfessed, unforgiven sin. You live with a guilty conscience, imprisoned to a painful past. The best news of the ages is this: you can be freed from sin. Because Jesus took what He did not deserve, you can go someplace you do not deserve. In the words of Mrs. Frank Beck: "There was One who was willing to die in my stead, That a soul so unworthy might live." (Beneath the Cross, Essays and Reflections on the Lord's Supper. Deward Publishing, 2008, p. 156)



We are victims of our past  
Prisoners of the present  
And judges of our future.  
(Edwin Britt)

## SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT PRAYER MAKES ONE WEEK

### The Power Of Words

A careless word may kindle strife;  
A cruel word may wreck a life.  
A bitter word may hate instill;  
A brutal word may smite and kill.  
A gracious word may smooth the  
way;  
A joyous word may light the day.  
A timely word may lessen stress;  
A loving word may heal and bless.

### Defining The Gospel

Our gospel is:

**J**oyful in tone.  
**E**arnest in spirit.  
**S**atisfying to the soul.  
**U**plifting to all.  
**S**ane in its appeal.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.  
(Matthew 6:34)

#### Brooksville Church of Christ

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#### Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)  
Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)  
Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

*Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:*

- ↪ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida
- ↪ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri
- ↪ The saints in Nicaragua

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