

Transfiguration Sunday
February 7, 2016

Text: II Corinthians 4:3-6

Theme: Take care of your sight

1. Blinded by the god of this world
2. Restored by the glory of God

I don't know what it's like to not be able to see for any length of time, to experience the majesty and beauty of God's creation, to see clearly what others see. Caylee Olson reportedly had that experience this week when she simply got glasses and said that she can't believe everything is so clear and beautiful. When it comes to the spiritual things, we all were that way at one time or another, whether we can recall it or not. It is what we were. It is a problem that still inflicts many today. So it's important for us to understand the value and importance of **Take Care of Your Sight.**

It's a tragedy really when you think about it. There are more than 4.5 billion people in the world who fit under Paul's definition here. **The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers.** How sad that what they do know are only the things that the god of this age, the devil, reveals to them. They see the world only through a worldly lens. Life is here and life is now. This is it. Lust? Don't worry about it. Sexual promiscuity? Fine. Greed? Great. Selfishness? Super. Abortion? It's your body, do with it what you want. All because they are blinded by the lies of the father of lies. The list could go on and on of the ways that our society, the people around us who aren't faithfully following Jesus are left blinded by Satan. And it's among them that we live. It's from some of them perhaps that we ourselves find entertainment or even some semblance of direction. It's by them that our ideas and values are sometimes shaped and formed.

But their ailment is not a surface problem that can be corrected if they just blink their eyes a few times to rewet their dry eyes. It's not a murky vision that can be corrected with glasses. It's not even a problem that can be corrected with a procedure like lasik. No the problem of spiritual blindness so infects every ounce of their being, their every thought, motive and deed that dabbling around the eyes can't solve it.

These are people who can't see spiritual things, the things of God. How tragic that they are don't know Jesus. How devastating that they don't know the salvation he won. What's left for them if they don't know and see the light is not only a life in the darkness of sin, but an eternity in the presence of the one who blinded them and away from God. And you want to take direction from them? Are you willing to let your values, your worldview, your life be shaped by them?

Now maybe you say come on Pastor, it's not really that bad. I've grown up in the church. Pastor Kosanke or Pastor Kipfmiller, Pastor Grunewald or you taught and trained me. My parents faithfully brought me to church. I've stayed close and still come fairly regularly to worship. They aren't shaping my worldview. And maybe that's true. But Paul's lament here is a reminder that we must be vigilant. The devil works still today and would love nothing more than to throw some shade on your trust in Jesus. We are daily in his kingdom. He'd love nothing more than to slowly, subtly and consistently reshape your worldview, cloud your sight and lead you to his dark abyss.

But it doesn't have to be that way. There is a light to shatter the darkness and drive out the liar Satan. On the mount of Transfiguration, Jesus gave a glimpse of that light when he showed himself to be the divine Son of God, the Savior of the world and he was attested to by his own heavenly Father. You have come to see that light, not as an active choice of your will, but as Paul says, **For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.** It's God who has shattered your own previous blindness and given you spiritual eyes to behold in Jesus the light you so desperately need in this world.

Ponder that for a moment. **He made his light to shine in our hearts.** That's faith, which drives out the darkness of sin. That's faith, which gives light to our spiritual eyes to see God's glory, much as Peter, James and John beheld the glory of Christ on that mountain. And the glory of God is simply this, that he, the perfect, Sovereign God of all, loved the world so much that he looked on our helpless, blind condition, and sent his Son in your place and mine to live and satisfy his righteous demands and to die, taking the punishment that the world's disobedience deserved. Yes, that of the people blinded by the devil's lies. And yours and mine too. It's absolutely true what we sing in the hymn *Amazing Grace*. **I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.** Your sight has been **restored by the glory of God.** Through that restoration we have 20/20 vision.

Take care of your sight. You are not immune from the devil's lies in the hopes that somehow, some way he might cloud your clear vision of the glory of Jesus' redemption with his lies and false and empty promises. The world and your sinful flesh seek work in concert with him to cloud that sight, refocus your life and diminish Christ. Martin Luther put it this way in his explanation to the Sixth Petition in his Large Catechism. **Then comes the devil, pushing and provoking in all directions. But he especially agitates matters that concern the conscience and spiritual affairs. He leads us to despise and disregard both God's Word and works.** And if we despise and disregard his words and works, we've wandered from the faith and left ourselves hopeless and helpless to see **the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

For it's in Christ alone that we find light of the gospel. The psalmist said, **your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.** (*Psalms 119:105*) And John said about Jesus, **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** If we wish to continue to see the good things that God holds out to us and promises to give us and we wish to avoid the spiritual blindness that once bewitched us, then we must continue in his Word. It must be a priority for us to see Jesus who is the center and focus of every page, chapter and verse of Holy Scripture. It was no accident that Moses and Elijah joined him on that mountain that day to lend their testimony to Jesus as the one to whom they pointed the people of the Old Testament. **Take care of your sight.** Listen to his word, ponder what he says, trust in his forgiveness and live empowered by his Spirit as you bask in the glow of the divine Savior who gives light to see the glory of God and his salvation.