

## FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

- A. Many of us have had the experience of drifting out of our lane while trying to read a road sign.
  - 1. That's a jarring reminder of how important it is to keep our focus on the road.
  
- B. Well, with all that has happened in our nation, it's easy to lose our focus on the Lord, His church, and the needs of His members.
  - 1. While trying to read the road signs of life, it's easy to veer off the path of discipleship.
  - 2. When that occurs, what *can* happen to us is much worse than running off the road into a ditch, we can lose our way to the glory of Heaven and the throne of God.
  - 3. And when Jesus returns in judgment, we'll not be one of the souls resurrected to life eternal.
    - a. We'll be unprepared; we'll not have on the wedding garment washed in the blood of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:12).

- C. That was already beginning to happen to some Christians in the first century.

Galatians 1:6-8

**6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ,** for a different gospel; **7** which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

- 1. These saints were not focused on the Lord; they were listening to other voices who could only claim to speak for God.
- D. Another reason Christians lose their focus on the Lord is because they have the wrong priorities in their lives.
    - 1. As Jesus said in the parable, "the cares, riches and pleasures of life" (road signs) distract them and they are unproductive.

Hebrews 2:1-3

**1 For this reason** [Jesus is the resurrected Son of God, worshipped by the angels and God's final voice to man] **we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.** **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?** After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

2. Their “attention” was distracted from the word of God.
  3. They “neglected” their soul’s salvation.
  4. They “drifted away” from their salvation.
  5. Because the word of the Lord was not as important to them as the other priorities in their lives.
- E. Sadly, too many Christians end up in a ditch—shipwrecked in faith—because they get distracted by living in this world.
1. So what will help us focus on the one thing that matters most in life; what will help us keep our eyes on the road to eternal life?

Hebrews 12:1-2

12 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2 fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

[Today I want to mention a few things we can do to fix our eyes on Jesus, so we don’t get caught up in reading road signs and veer off the path to Heaven.]

- I. Remember That The World Is A Dangerous Place
  - A. When you’re driving along and you take your eyes off the road and begin to veer off in one direction, it reminds you that driving is dangerous business.
    1. It scares the life out of you.
  - B. The same is true about taking your eyes off Jesus; you will veer off the road to the Father in Heaven and end up in a dangerous place.
    1. What makes the world a dangerous place?

1 John 5:19

19 We know that we are of God, and that ***the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.***

2. So why does his “power” make the world a dangerous place?

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 in whose case ***the god of this world has blinded the minds*** of the unbelieving ***so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ***, who is the image of God.

3. Did God actually tell us that this world is a dangerous place?

Galatians 1:3-4

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord **Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father,

- a. "This present age" means this world is temporary; there's another to come
  - b. "This ... evil age" describes the world in which we live.
4. One reason this world is a dangerous place is because of the mass of people who live in ignorance of God's will and the gospel.

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; **for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.** 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- a. Jesus was not talking about some inter-mediate place between earth & heaven; those gates and those ways are right here in this earth.

- b. But just think if the reverse of what Jesus said were true? This world might not be so dangerous.

- C. It is easy to forget the pleasures / priorities of this world are designed by people under Satan's influence -- to destroy us (examples).
  1. We can be captured by our affection for these things and not even realize the danger we are in.
  2. It happened to a close friend and travel companion of Paul – Demas.
    - a. When Paul needed him most, Demas deserted him because he was in love "with this present age" (2 Tim 4:10).
    - b. Demas stayed out of jail by staying in the world, but it also kept him out of heaven.
    - c. This is why God tells us to see the danger of the world and to not to follow people and not to accept human ideals and views about life.

Acts 2:40

40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "**Be saved from this perverse generation!**"

Romans 12:2

2 And ***do not be conformed to this world***, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 John 2:15-17

15 ***Do not love the world nor the things in the world***. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 ***The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.***

[These verses will change your perspective as you look out your window in the morning.

What you will see is a beautiful world in decay, and people who have taken their eyes off the road (the Lord), or who have never seen the road (Him).

Now to positive side of this. When we get our eyes back on the road (on the Lord) we will see something again:]

## II. God Has Always Been Good And Trustworthy

A. Many times, Christians take their eyes off Jesus because they doubt the goodness and trustworthiness of God.

1. They get discouraged and drift away from the things they have learned about Jesus Christ.

B. Discouragement can drain the fuel out of our lives, and leave us motionless on the side of the road.

1. But why do we get discouraged anyway?
2. *We took our eyes off the Lord* -- when life wasn't turning out as we thought it should.
3. That's when we forget how good God has been to us.

Psalms 116:1-7

1 I love the Lord, because He hears My voice and my supplications. 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live. 3 The cords of death encompassed me and the terrors of Sheol came upon me; I found distress and sorrow.

**He's terrified of living, so he prayed.**

4 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I beseech You, save my life!"

**Then, he gave a personal testimony to his readers.**

5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate. 6 The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.

**Then, he spoke to his soul.**

***7 Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.***

**Paul didn't doubt the goodness and trustworthiness of God when life didn't turn out as he expected.**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 **For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison**, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

[When we consider all that God has done for us, through Jesus Christ, how could we get sidelined by a lack of trust in Him?

He is always good and always trustworthy!

Next, when we get our eyes back on the road again (on the Lord) we will see again.]

### III. Other People Have Souls Too

A. When we're driving, we sometimes don't think about - what a moment of negligence can do to the other people.

1. That same thing is true when we drift away from the Lord, and take our eyes off of Him, we're not thinking about how our actions affect others.

2. It's important to remember that the people travelling with us in this life have souls too.

Hebrews 3:12-13

12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 **But encourage one another day after day**, as long as it is still called "Today," **so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 and **let us consider how to [stir up] stimulate one another to love and good deeds**, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

[One of the best ways to keep your eyes on the Lord, is by encouraging your brothers and sisters in Christ by whatever means you have.

Finally, when we get our eyes back on the road (on the Lord) we will remember something.]

### IV. Eternity Is A Long Time

A. We've all heard about drivers who got distracted for a second, but then spent the rest of their lives with a physical disability or with the memory of having harmed others.

1. The distraction lasted for only a moment, the results will last a lifetime.

B. The same thing is true with our focus on Jesus, a momentary distraction can result in a life-time (or even an eternity) of regret.

1. Consider the One Talent man: one minute in one day changed his future (Matt 25:18)
2. The same was true for Judas (Matt 26:14-15), and Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-2).

[If Christians would consider an endless eternity, they might keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.]

#### CLOSING

A. Today is the day of salvation, the day to get back on the road and fix your eyes on Jesus.

1. It's the day to turn away from distractions, and to stop looking in other directions.

B. Paul spent many years distracted by pride and prejudice.

1. Then one day on the road to Damascus he met the resurrected Christ Jesus.

2. He understood then that Jesus died for his sins and was reigning in Heaven as Lord.

3. So he fixed his eyes on Jesus; he got up and was baptized to wash away his sins calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16).

4. Paul did not allow the sins of his past, or the successes of his career to be a road sign that would distract him his salvation.

Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 ***I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

C. Won't you join Paul and us today?

1. What do you need to remove from your line of sight to fix your eyes on Jesus?

#### **Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus**

O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.**

Through death into life everlasting  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
O'er us sin no more hath dominion—  
For more than conqu'rors we are!

His Word shall not fail you—He promised;  
Believe Him, and all will be well:  
Then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell!

***Helen H. Lemmel, 1922***