

## Open Your Eyes To The Truth

*Ephesians 1:17-23*

*17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him:*

*18 **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the **riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,***

*19 And what is the **exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power,*

*20 Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,*

*21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

*22 And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church,*

*23 Which is His body, the **fullness of Him** that filleth all in all.*

When you think of eyes, normally you think of natural eyes that people have. There are other things that have eyes like storms, tornadoes, potatoes, hooks, needles, your (I) phone, and even God! Did you know that your understanding even has eyes? The Bible talks about the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened**. Did you ever know somebody that just couldn't see clearly? It would be something so obvious to you, but they couldn't see it? Our pastor has been ministering on "Common Sense." There are some people who are educated and very "book smart" but have absolutely no common sense. Then there are people who are not educated who have all the common sense in the world. They can see things clearly, can put two and two together, and they automatically see the big picture - the truth about what is going on! These days, it seems that for a lot of people, common sense has flown out the window! There are things that are so obvious that people cannot even see. You can look at something and you can tell that it is obviously black, and people will stand there and argue with you that it is white, and they honestly believe it! When my brother and I were kids we were familiar with cats because our grandmother had a couple of them at her house. My brother is younger than me, and he knew that when kittens were born, their eyes were shut and they couldn't open them. My Aunt went into the hospital to deliver her baby, and while she was in the hospital she called our house, and my little brother asked my mother if the baby's eyes were open yet! I thought that was so cute - he was so sincere about it! Today there are many people walking around with their eyes shut. They are so blinded by the devil and they don't SEE

it! They don't know their right hand from their left hand, let alone what is true or what is a lie. These people are stumbling around in darkness and don't even realize it. They're going with the flow of the world, not even realizing where the world is ultimately going to end up. *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)* Let's face it - the people in the world are on the road to death/hell because they belong to the world, do the things the world does, talk like the world does, and they also believe just like the world.

*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world (the devil) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2 Corinthians 4:3,4)* If you belong to this world and not to God, then the devil is actually leading and directing your life! He is actually your God - your master! If you have never made Jesus your Lord, then the devil is still your Lord. *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth Me of sin? **And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: Ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.** (John 8:42-47)*

***Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:13, 14)*** The Bible says that there is a narrow way to heaven that only a few will find. The people who have been born again (from above) and have made Jesus the Lord of their lives - the ones who follow Him and obey Him, are on the right path, which is the narrow path. God says in His Word that many people are on the broad path and that it is leading them straight into hell and destruction. These are the people who do what they want, think and say what they want, and act the way they want to without any fear of the Lord. They know what they do is wrong, but they just don't care. They don't want to think that there is someone who would have any authority over them, but even so, they don't have any excuse for their sin. *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are **clearly seen** being understood by the things that are*

made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse**: because that, when they knew God, they **glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful**; but **became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened**. Professing themselves to be wise, they became **fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an **image** made like to corruptible **man**, and to **birds**, and fourfooted **beasts**, and **creeping things**. (Romans 1:18-23) Notice how their perception of God got lower and lower, even to the point of something that creeps along the ground, just because they didn't glorify God and they weren't thankful! They had vain imaginations, or thoughts, and they became fools! Their hearts were darkened, which is a dangerous place to be, especially when we are to be lights to the world in the midst of all of this darkness!

It's so important to pray and confess over yourself, your family, and friends for their **eyes of understanding to be enlightened**, as it says in our first verse. As you can see, people can become fools really fast when they vain, or conceited in their imagination, which is another word for understanding. It's crucial to **keep your eyes on Jesus, which is the Word of God** in these last days. This world is crumbling fast as we see the day of the return of the Lord approaching, and the Bible says it will get worse and worse. The good thing is that as the world gets darker, we, the church will shine brighter and brighter for all the world to see! You have to realize that you were made for a purpose. God had you in mind from eternity past and made you specifically for this time period to do a particular job that He has planned for you to do during these last days. *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected end**.* (Jeremiah 29:11) One version says that God will give you a future and a hope! Now that's good news! If you look up the word "expected" in this verse in the Greek, it means a cord. Just as sure as you know that a cord has an expected end to it, you also can be sure that God has a purpose for your life and He is going to give you an expected end, which is eternal life with Him! God has plans to do mighty works in you and through you! He wants to show Himself strong and mighty through you but He needs you to be His willing vessel that He can work through. Yes God has great plans for your life if you only submit to Him! Just think about it - out of all the billions and billions of people that have been born in ages past, **He chose you** to live now!

Don't wait another day! Get your understanding enlightened by reading the Word of God. Let God exchange your thoughts for His by renewing your mind to the truth of the Word of God. Give Him your attention and your focus. Keep Him first in your life. Trust Him and believe Him over everyone else in this world because He won't lead you down the wrong path and He won't ever leave you or forsake you! Make sure you are seeing clearly what is going on around you. Don't let the devil blind you to the truth, because Jesus is the Way, the TRUTH, and the Life!

Jesus loves you!

Jody