

HOLY HELPS

EYESIGHT AND INSIGHT

“What you see is what you get” is a phrase referring to persons or products as they initially appear to be. What we think we see is not what we necessarily get because we are not always as observant as we should be.

Professor John Stilgoe is a faculty member at Harvard University. He teaches his students to use their eyes. He says, “The power of acute observation is one of nature's most useful tools for learning.” He continues by saying, “Harvard has some of the finest students in the world, but most of them are visual illiterates. Most people, when they learn to read, stop looking around.” Interesting comment which could be applied to many Christians as well.

He instructs his students to *look* and to *see* that at which they are *looking*! He adds, “Most people look casually instead of comprehendingly.” What he said immediately registered with me. For over fifty years I have been trying to help people see what God is showing us in His Word. Each person sees differently, depending upon their perspective.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

“Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.” (Jer. 6:16)

Look before you leap is good advice. God says. “*Stand ... and see.*” He asked several persons, “*What do you see?*” For example, Jeremiah (Jer.1:11); Ezekiel (Ezekiel 8:6); Amos (Amos 7:8); Zechariah (Zeck.4:2) What we comprehend depends upon how well we concentrate upon that at which we are looking. Eyesight does not always lead to insight. Why?

Some see forgetfully.

Some look, and, as James says, forget what they see. He wrote, “*Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*” (James 1:23-24)

Sheep graze where they gaze. In doing so they tend to forget where they are, who their shepherd is and the dangers of wandering from the safety of the flock. How many of the Good Shepherd's sheep see truths fleetingly and, distracted by other less important matters, forget to apply those truths to practical, everyday living? Remember, out of sight, out of mind!

Some see faintly.

They brought to Jesus a man who was blind. Jesus “*spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.”* (Mark 8:23-24)

He faintly saw; he saw human forms that looked like trees to him. Some people get a glimpse of truth and, in their enthusiasm, run off before they clearly and correctly perceive the complete picture. Fortunately, the man in the story in Mark 8 did not do that. Jesus touched

his eyes the second time and he clearly saw. Seeing only half truths is dangerous. Every open eye is not seeing discerningly.

Some see fully.

“I John saw the holy city New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Rev.21:2) John goes on to describe beautifully the destination that awaits the Father’s Family in the Father’s House.

The old warning signs at railroad crossings said, “Stop! Look! Listen!” That’s what we need to do when we come to the Word of God. Stop, look and see that at which we are looking! Listen and hear what God is saying and act obediently upon it. That is when eyesight will lead to insight for living.

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you....” (Eph. 1:18)

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