

Our Need For **20/20 SPIRITUAL VISION**

KNOWLEDGE / CLARITY / DISCERNMENT / WISDOM / HOPE



20/20 SPIRITUAL VISION

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Matthew 13:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴

And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: *‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;’* ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’ ¹⁶ But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

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2020 SERMONS / OUR PERSPECTIVE

- ▶ “That Is JUST Your Interpretation!”
- ▶ “I Have Been Redeemed”
- ▶ “Begotten By The Word”
- ▶ “Corner Stone or Stumbling Stone”
- ▶ “What A Tragedy”
- ▶ “Error And Consequences”
- ▶ “Godly Living In An Ungodly World”
- ▶ “Certainty of The Day of The Lord”
- ▶ “The Lord Is Our Rock And Fortress”
- ▶ “A Remains Rest For God’s People”

The SCRIPTURES?

The Cost of Redemption?

Power of God’s Word?

Jesus Christ?

The Lost?

False Doctrine?

The Sinful World?

God’s Judgment?

God’s Promises?

God’s Faithfulness?

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PAST / PRESENT / FUTURE

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L I F E I N

G O S P E L

F O C U S

- ▶ **Hindsight is not necessarily 20/20.**
 - Revisionist history is REAL & DANGEROUS. We NEED to be honest with our past!
- ▶ **Current vision can be very blurry.**
 - Seeing ourselves as we REALLY ARE requires accurate understanding of both objective and subjective truth!
- ▶ **Future consequences and destiny**
 - Knowledge of God's word ESSENTIAL!

20/20 SPIRITUAL VISION

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BEING HONEST WITH OUR PAST



- **Hindsight is not necessarily 20/20.**
- Israel suffered from “revisionist history” syndrome (Psalm 78; Judges 2:10-12; Mat. 23:31–33. Ac. 7:51; etc.).
 - Men have always had the tendency to revise history to accommodate current conditions and activities (Rom. 1:28; 2 Peter 3:1-9; etc.).
 - Paul was honest with his past and also retained his sincerity when confronted with the truth (c Phil. 3:1-7; etc)

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- **Hindsight is not necessarily 20/20.**
- Just as Israel quickly forgot God and His Law, those professing to follow Christ quickly forgot and turned away from Him (Gal. 1:6-9; 1 John; Rev. 2:4,5; 3:1-3)
 - Catholicism & denominationalism exists because professed Christians forgot the Lord's way (1 Pet. 5:1-4; 1 Tim. 4:1-5)
 - History is repeating itself by professed churches of Christ today (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 2 Ti. 3:1-5; 4:4)

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- **We need to emulate the approved original example & pattern of the NT.**
- The Restoration movement refocuses attention on the original pattern.
 - If we do what they were instructed to do, and we are what they were instructed to be - we will be what God wants us to be (Acts 2; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; cf. 2 Kings 23; Ezra and Nehemiah)
 - This requires an accurate understanding & application of the NT.

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- **We need to emulate the attitude of Paul regarding our past ...**
- **BE HUMBLLED:** Recognizing & accepting responsibility for our past sins (1 Tim 1:13-15; 1 Co. 15:9; Gal. 1:13; etc.)
 - **MEEKNESS:** Recognizing the authority of Jesus over our lives (Acts 9:6; 26:15-19; Phili. 3:7-11; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; etc.)
 - **GRATITUDE:** Recognizing our lostness and need for Jesus' sacrifice (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:14,15; Phi. 4:6; Col. 1:13)

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► We need to emulate the attitude of Paul regarding our past ...

Philippians 3:13 (NKJV)
13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind ...

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BEING HONEST WITH OUR PRESENT

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- **Current vision can be very blurry.**
- Seeing ourselves as we REALLY ARE requires accurate understanding of both objective and subjective truth!
 - David was blinded to his spiritual condition in 2 Samuel 11:1-12:6
 - Israel was blind to their spiritual condition (Ezek. 12:2; Mat. 13:13-15)
 - Those who rejected Christ were blinded to their spiritual condition (Luke 19:42; Acts 28:26,27; Romans 10:1-3)

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► Current vision can be CLEAR ...

- Josiah demonstrated honesty when he recognized the spiritual condition of Judah and sought to bring Judah into compliance with God's stated will (2 Kings 23; 2 Chr. 34:29, 30)
- Jesus gives sight to the blind - the truth can open our eyes if we are honest (John 9:39; cf. 8:31,32; James 1:21-25)
- Those in Berea are examples (Acts 17:11,12; Jn. 5:39; Ja. 1:21; 1 Thes. 2:13)

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► Current vision can be CLEAR ...

- Are we genuine seekers of the truth or are we blind defenders of error (Acts 5:33; 7:54,57; 21:36; 22:22,23; etc.)?
- Are we honest with our weaknesses, struggles and sin (Psalm 139:23,24; 1 Cor. 11:28,31; 2 Cor. 13:5; Heb. 3:12,13)?
- Are we as faithful as we could and should be (Mt. 25:14-46; Ga. 6:4; He. 4:1; 12:15; 1 Jno. 3:20, 21; Re. 2:5; 3:2, 3)?
- Let us be doers (Jn 8:31,32; Ja. 1:21-26)

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► Current vision can be CLEAR ...

2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ We then, *as workers together with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says: “*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*” Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

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► Current vision can be CLEAR ...

Hebrews 3:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called “*Today*,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

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► Future consequences and destiny ...

- Israel was deceived regarding their future. They assumed they would not suffer the consequences of their sins because they were God's chosen people (Jer. 6:16-23; 19:4ff; etc.)
- Those who put Jesus to death, and persecuted the early church, assumed they were doing God's will and thought they would be blessed (John 16:2; Ro. 10:2,3; Ga. 1:13,14; Phi. 3:6)

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► Future consequences and destiny ...

- Sadly, MANY believe they are heading for heaven when they are not (Mat. 7:13,14,21-23; 25:44-46; et.).
- If we are NOT following the Lord today, we are not on the path leading to heaven (Mat. 7:13,14; Heb. 5:8,9; John 10:1-10; Rom. 8:1,2,12-17).
- If we are walking in the truth, we can know where we are going (Rom. 8:1,2,12-17; 1 Thes. 5:4; 1 John 3:3; 5:13).

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► **Future consequences and destiny ...**

Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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Psalm 119:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with Your servant,
That I may live and keep Your word. ¹⁸
Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous
things from Your law.

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Matthew 6:22–23 (NKJV)

22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

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Luke 10:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Then He turned to *His* disciples and said privately, “Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things you see; ²⁴ for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen *it*, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard *it*.”

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Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

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Hebrews 11:27 (NKJV)

**²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not
fearing the wrath of the king;
for he endured as seeing Him
who is invisible.**

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Ephesians 1:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

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Ephesians 1:17–19 (NKJV)

that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

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► **Have you sinned and never submitted to the Lord's terms of pardon?**

- Hear the truth. (Luke 8:11)
- Believe Jesus is the Son of God (Jn 8:24)
- Repent (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
- Confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9,10)
- Be Baptized (Ac 2:38; 22:16; Co. 2:12,13)

► **Are you an erring Christian?**

- Repent and confess (Acts 8:22; 1 Jn 1:9)

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John 9:35–39 (NKJV)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “**Do you believe in the Son of God?**” ³⁶ He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ And Jesus said to him, “**You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.**” ³⁸ Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him. ³⁹ And Jesus said, “**For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.**”

Trust God when you don't understand. Submit to God even when you don't agree.
Trust is not that meaningful when we have to understand every decision and action.
Submission is not meaningful when we have to agree with everything being done.
God's ways and thoughts are not ours. He knows what He's doing.