

not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh."

As Christians today, we must not be unduly impressed by a teachers or preachers style of his credentials that we fail to examine the scriptures for ourselves. We must look at their teachings about God and Jesus and see if it is from the Bible and is accurate and true. If we do not study the Bible we will be destroyed for lack of knowledge as seen in Hosea 4:6. We are encouraged by David in the book of Psalms concerning how we may keep our hearts pure and our

eyes ever open to God's ways. David delighted in God's law, meditated upon God's word and recognized the value of God's word in keeping us from sin (Psalm 1;119:10-11, 97-105). It is very important that we watch our daily lives as close as we can. We as Christians must be on constant guard against falling into sin that can so easily blind us. Yet we must watch what we believe concerning the Bible just as closely as we study and pray, never ceasing. Wrong beliefs can quickly lead us into sin, heresy and most of all spiritual blindness. Most importantly, we should be on our guard against those who would persuade us to live a life contrary to God's word. To preserve our sight we must always walk by faith never by sight. Think about it.

Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Two Blind Men

In my younger days, I had an uncle who was blind. He would often come and visit with us. Now he was not born this way, he became blind while serving in the army in Korea during the Korean War. As I would watch my uncle, I could tell that he was very aware of his surroundings in which he could tell me by the sound that I made how close or far I was from him. when a person is blind his ears and his touch will take the place of his eyes. As he would walk you could tell that with every step he took he was aware where his steps would take him. He could hear very well due to the fact that he had to take in all of his surroundings to avoid the hidden dangers he had to face as he walked down the sidewalks by the busy streets.

when he would pay for something he could tell just by the touch of the dollar bill if it was a one dollar, ten dollar or a larger currency. In other words, he was very alert to his surroundings so as to stay out of trouble or to carry on with his everyday life.

In Matthew 20:29 we read of two blind men who were sitting by the roadside near Jericho. They heard that Jesus was close by and began to shout out loud for Jesus to hear them so that they could be healed by Jesus and have their sight back. **Matt 20:29-34: "Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O**

Lord, Son of David!" Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him."

Now I have to give it to these two blind men. When they heard that Jesus was close to them they both shouted so as to bring attention to themselves because they believed that Jesus could restore their sight. Now folks, this is a good example of walking by faith, not by sight. These two blind men never saw Jesus, but they believed. They believed by what they had heard. I have to ask a question, if these two blind men had faith in Jesus, even though they had never seen Jesus before they were healed, how could they accept Jesus at His word and had the faith to know that all things were possible along with faith? How is it that people today have a hard time believing when we have His word with us? We know that the Bible is true. why is it that we often want to close our eyes to the teachings of His word? Mankind has a

tendency to be blinded by the world in ways such as the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life (I John 2:15-16). The times may change, but people don't change. One may ask, "how can one be blinded by this world and not see who God is and why His Son had to come down from Heaven to die on the cross for all mankind? And why do we need God's word to help us understand right and wrong?" The answer to that question is Satan. In II Corinthians 11:14 we read that Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light deceiving those by appearing to be attractive, good and moral. The gospel that is preached is open and revealed to everyone who will listen and want to understand. But to those who will not believe and refuse to accept God's mercy and His Son they are blinded by the lies of Satan. Satan is the god of this world, his work here is to deceive and to blind those who refuse to believe in Christ. We can be blinded by this world with the allure of money, power, and pleasure. When we go after the riches of this world we have a tendency to reject Christ and His word or we put Jesus second in our life so we can pursue our own pleasures of life. when we do these things we unknowingly make Satan our god and master. Consider

Romans 6:16-23 which teaches us that we will either be a servant of God or a servant of Satan. Often we are blinded into believing that there is neutral ground to stand upon or that we can serve both (Matthew 6:24, James 4:4). Another way we can be blinded by this world is by allowing a hardening of our hearts and losing all sensitivity as we give ourselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity with a continual lust for more as seen in Ephesians 4:18. In Romans 1:18-32 Paul writes about those who have been blinded by their own selfish desires and the longing to be a part of idolatry and lust. People tend to believe lies that will reinforce their own selfish and personal desires. Today more than ever we need to be careful about what we put into our minds that forms our thinking and our beliefs. We need to be careful regarding what we watch on TV, the music we listen to and most of all the movies that we bring into our homes and watch.

A lot of the media that we watch or listen to will present a sinful lifestyle and bring unwholesome values into our homes which can over time blind us to the sin that we are getting into. We as Christians can also be blinded by the world in not knowing what the Bible really says. In I

Timothy 4:1 it says: ***"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."*** Here Paul is saying that false teachers were hypocritical liars who encouraged the people to follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Here we see where Satan deceives the people by offering a clever imitation of the real thing. Here false teachers give stringent rules such as forbidding to marry or to eat certain foods. These types of teachings will appear self-disciplined or righteous; not knowing that their strict disciplines for their body cannot remove their sin. Paul has much to say about this in ***Colossians 2:20-23***. ***"Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulation "Do not touch, do not taste, do***