

## The Sun Is Shining And I Am Blind

2Cor.4:3-6

A blind beggar was sitting on a street corner in one of our Southern cities. As people passed by and deposited coins into the cup he held in his hand, they were struck by the sign he wore about his neck which read: "The Sun is shining and I am blind." Here was a man who realized that he was in a world of beauty, but he could not see it or enjoy it, because of his blindness. Blindness does not negate beauty.

There is, however, a worse fate today. Millions are blind to the love, mercy, and salvation that God offers to all men, through His Son Jesus Christ. The gospel is hidden or veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this world, the devil "a deceiver" Rev.12:9, "a liar" Jno.8:44, has blinded their minds. But how? Did he overpower them? Did he impose his will on them? NO! The devil must have the cooperation of a man in order to blind his eyes. James 4:7 "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Things that lead to spiritual blindness:

1. They glorified Him not as God, were not thankful, and became vain in their imaginations Rom.1:21
2. They did not like to retain God in their knowledge Rom.1:28
3. They received not a love of the truth 2Thess 2:10
4. They believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness 2Thess 2:11-12
5. They love darkness rather than light John 3:19

Note verse 6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." As God brought light out of darkness in the material creation, just so He has illuminated our hearts with the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face (person) of Jesus Christ. Our spiritual vision comes to light in Christ, allowing us to see things never before seen to those blinded by the darkness of sin.

### In What Areas May The Devil Blind Us?

#### I. The Devil Blinds Men To The Goodness of God.

Anyone who doesn't realize that God has been good to him is truly blind.

"Thy mercies are new every morning, Great is your faithfulness" Lam.3:22-23

Story: a man during depression, was visited by preacher. He lived in good house in better part of town. He had lost his job as superintendent in a plant, that closed, but he was given a smaller job at less pay. He began to complain, to which the preacher replied, "but God has been good to you, you do have a job." He said "I don't know so much about that." He had no appreciation for God's goodness. We sing "count your blessings, name them one by one..." That is a good practice. Instead of looking at your troubles, look at your blessings. Instead of looking down, look up to God. If you cannot look around you and find good in your life, you are blind indeed. We live in a wonderful country, while others live in virtual slavery.

We have freedom, others do not enjoy. We have blessings others only dream of i.e. food, clothing, houses, cars etc. How can we complain?

## II. The Devil Blinds Men To The Way of Salvation.

The Bible is our only guidebook in the matter of salvation. Salvation is not subjective. Pardon comes from God, not from within. Jere. 10:23 Hence, all claims of salvation founded on dreams, visions, or feelings are not reliable. Morality, friends, family, good deeds cannot save a person.

God so loved that he gave His only begotten son. Jno.3:16  
Jesus so loved that he died to save us from our sins. Jno. 15:13

1Cor.1:18 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God." v. 23-24 "We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, to the Greeks foolishness, But to those who are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

"In my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling."

In Chicago few years back there was a night club called the "The Gates of Hell." A few doors down there was a sign that advertised a meeting place called "Calvary Church". One night a drunk stopped a young man and asked "can you show me the way to the Gates of Hell?" The young man pointed to the sign on the Corner and said "Just go right by Calvary and you will come to the Gates of Hell." If we neglect or refuse the salvation offered by the death of Christ and our obedience to His commands, we have no hope. Paul declared that we are "buried with him in baptism into death that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we should walk in newness of life." Rom.6:3-4

I must needs go home by the way of the cross, There's no other way but this.  
I shall ne'er catch sight of the gates of light, If the way of the cross I miss.

While the devil may blind the minds of men to the great sacrifice made by Jesus in behalf of all men and point them to the bright lights of sinful pleasure, to those of us who are saved, the sun is shining, the light of God's word has beamed its message into our hearts, thereby leading us to the lamb of God that taketh away our sin.

## III. The Devil Blinds Our Minds To the Joy of Christian Living.

The devil tells people: "look at those Christians, they have no fun. They can't do all the things that you are doing" Their lives are bound up by a set of rules found in the bible, and they are miserable."

David: "I was envious of the boastful when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men

are.” Psa. 73:3-5. This is the Devil’s lie. Nothing but a lie. David said: “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to you.” Ps.51:12-13

There is joy in living for Jesus. Joy in serving the Lord. The sun is shining, are you blind?

A man lived in the slums of a great city. Everyday he looked at the poverty around him. House decaying, floors bare etc. Out his window he saw dingy walls, ragged children, forlorn women and hollow eyed men. He often closed his eyes and dreamed. He saw himself in a beautiful home surrounded by elegant furnishings. The home surrounded by trees and flowers, everything his heart could desire. One day he received an official letter that a long-forgotten relative had died and left him a fortune. He couldn’t believe it. He hadn’t seen the relative in years. He thought someone was playing a practical joke on him, so he threw the letter in the trash and continued to live in misery and poverty.

There are people like that today. They would like a better life. Better promises, better future, yet they remain in sin instead of becoming a disciple of Christ. The sun is shining and they are blind.

The Elder brother who stayed at home was greatly upset at the return of his prodigal brother. His own words indicate that all through the years he had LIVED BENEATH HIS PRIVILEGES. He said “Lo, these many years do I serve thee, yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: but when this thy son came who devoured thy living with harlots, thou killest for him the fatted calf.” In this statement he admits that, living with his gracious father and staying at home with all the privileges offered by his father, had been plain drudgery. Note the response of the father: “Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.” In other words: these things were here for you all along. The sun was shining, but you were blind. You failed to avail yourself of the privileges that belonged to you. What about us today? Are we making the same mistake? Do We:

1. have a meaningful relationship with God our Father?
  2. do we take advantage of making our requests made known to Him who has promised to answer?
  3. do we share in the joy of salvation?
  4. do we share that joy and knowledge with others?
  5. do we relish the association and fellowship of those of like precious faith?
- The sun is shining, are we blind?

#### V. The Devil Blinds Men to the Certainty of Death and the Judgment.

Heb.9:27 “It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.” Most men know that. They know this life is not all. They know they must die. Too much of life and nature prove that, whether we believe God or not. But the devil makes them forget all about it. Pushes it to the back of their mind. And do nothing about their responsibility to God. Like Felix, who heard Paul and then said “Go away for now, when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”

Like Belshazzar, who made a great feast, using the sacred vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem. He lifted himself up against the Lord of Heaven. That night a hand appeared out of the sleeve of time and wrote, "You are weighed in the balance and found wanting. You and your kingdom are finished." That very night he was slain. Listen friend, the sun is shining, and you are blind if you think you can escape. You will die, you will be judged. Romans 14:12 "So then each of us shall give account of himself unto God."

#### VI. The Devil Blinds Men As to The Happiness of Heaven.

Just as no human tongue can tell of the agonies of hell, neither can anyone describe all the glories of heaven. The devil blinds men to the joys of it. If we could only know all the wonderful things awaiting us out there, nothing could prevent our getting ready for it. Rev. 7:13-17 "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, Who are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." The sunlight of God's truth reveals the beauty of heaven. Only those blinded by the devices of Satan are unable to see its glory.