

One writer even suggested that serving God in order to go to heaven is “selfish” on our part.

If presented with a list of things mentioned in the Bible as contributing to salvation or a list of reasons for obeying/serving God and asked to select which is “the thing of focus,” there is nothing wrong with saying “all the above” and not allowing tunnel-vision to kick in. Our focus should be broad enough to include “all things commanded” (Matt. 28:19). Instead of spending effort poring over the list of things commanded, to select the one of most importance, accept them all. Which ever is chosen is subjective to the one choosing. So, you have about as many most important things as people you have poring over the matter.

Ed Bragwell, Sr.

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall
Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant
Preacher: Kevin Kay

Contact Information:

East Columbus church of Christ
811 Alabama Street
Columbus, MS 39702
Telephone: (662) 328-6227
Website: eastcolumbuschurch.org

Feel free to send articles you have found helpful and instructive as well. Be sure to give credit to the source so it can be properly cited. See or call Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com. (EW)

Vol. 4 No 5 – May 7, 2017



EAST COLUMBUS BULLETIN

2Pe 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, (7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (8) For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Spiritual Tunnel Vision ...

Peter warns that those who lack the “Christian Graces” of 2 Peter 1 are “blind and cannot see afar off.” (V. 9). The phrase “cannot see afar off” is from the Gr. MUOPAZO, from which we get the medical term MYOPIA, meaning near sightedness. So there is precedent for comparing a spiritual condition to eyesight – seeing or not seeing properly.

We often speak of keeping our eyes focused on Jesus and avoid distractions around us, like “looking unto Jesus” in our race as Christians (Heb. 12:2). The analogy of the eye is also used to show the need to be single-minded in relationship of Christ (with all for which He stands) as opposed to being double-minded (like eyes out of focus), trying to serve God and mammon at the same time. (Matt. 6:19-34). In this case, single

Times of Services

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:00 a. m. Worship

Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Joyce Ratcliff, Eula Mae Harliss
- **Limited Health:** Joyce Monasco, Willena Woods, Wade and Doris McCrary .
- **Others to remember:** Marion Butler, Steve Coburn, Jamie Denny, April Green, Clyde Hollis, Marilyn Lavender, David Allen Williams, Doris Young (Lynette Coburn's mother), & Vickie Stevens (wife of Tim Stevens).
- **Welcome Home:** We rejoice in having the safe return of David Cote following a six-month Air Force assignment overseas. Thanks be to God for his mercy and grace.
- **Graduations:** This month Jesse Wilson graduates high school and Mallory Parker graduates from MSU. Brody Parker will graduate this December from MUW.

Bible Question? What was the name of King Saul's wife?

Your Answer: _____

Last month's Q & A: What precious ointment was Jesus anointed with in the house of Simon the Leper? spikenard (Mark 14:3)

vision versus double vision, has to do with focusing on the spiritual rather than trying to focus on both the spiritual and material at the same time. This only results in a kind of spiritual blindness.

Another spiritual eye problem has become rather common place among professed Christians of late is that of tunnel vision – the loss of peripheral vision. This pertains to various elements included in the “kingdom of God and His righteousness” upon which we are to focus. Physical tunnel vision robs one of a lot of beauty because he can only see what is right in front of him. He is also unable to see dangers that may be approaching him from the side.

Almost daily, on social media and other outlets, I notice some brother approaching a religious subject by picking out one aspect of the subject and declaring that it is “the thing” of importance and relegating all else on the matter as, at best, secondary or even worse as unimportant. Wittingly or unwittingly, they project themselves as having greater insight than most folks, when in reality their field of spiritual vision is too narrow.

On the subject of salvation. The New Testament mentions several things that have to do with our salvation. But, a tunnel vision brother, sees only “grace” with all else being secondary or unimportant. Another sees “faith” with all else, especially works and obedience, being secondary or unimportant. Once one reaches this point, there is a very small step from “unimportant” to “unnecessary.”

On the subject of reasons and motivations for serving God. We read, in the word, of “love,” “fear,” “duty,” “gratitude,” “hope of heaven,” to “glorify God,” etc. A tunnel visioned brother sees “love” as “the” rather than “a” motive and declares it should not be out of fear; or that it should be out of gratitude and not out of duty; or it should be to “glorify God” and not to avoid hell and go to heaven.