

“Open the Eyes of my Heart Lord!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Open with Sermon Spice** – “The Machine” (*on prayer*).
 - 1.1.1. Paul wants to speak to us about Prayer tonight. Here are 2 prayers he shares w/us that prayed for his friends at the Ephesus church.
 - 1.1.2. **1:1-23** – “*That you may know...*” (18) **Enlightenment** [knowing what God has done for you in Christ]
 - 1.1.3. **3:13-21** – “*That you may be...*” (19) **Enablement** [experiencing His blessings]
- 1.2. **Announcement** – **Read**
- 1.3. Prayer – It is no wonder that Satan would seek to **disarm us** of our **only weapon** against him...**Prayer!**
- 1.4. **Last week** – Paul completed his **203 word sentence** of blessing.
 - 1.4.1. **Every Spiritual blessing** included being: Chosen; adopted; graciously favored; redeemed; forgiven; His revealed will to us; made us an inheritance; sealed; gave the H.S. as a deposit.

2. OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD! (15-23)

- 2.1. Paul prays...“oh, if you could learn these **4 things** about God!”
 - 2.1.1. About: His Person; His Promise; His Power; His Position.
- 2.2. **HIS PERSON!** (17,18a)
- 2.3. Spirit of wisdom & revelation in the **knowledge of him**;
The eyes of your *understanding*(heart) being enlightened.
- 2.4. **1st step** to *Knowing Him* is saving faith.
2nd step is knowing Him **better**...which is meant here!
 - 2.4.1. It involves more than knowing just facts about Him.
 - 2.4.2. **Facts** are helpful...but **not enough!**
- 2.5. The eyes of your *understanding*(heart) being enlightened –
 - 2.5.1. NIV “**I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened**”.
 - 2.5.2. Like Paul Baloché wrote, “*Open the eyes of my heart Lord.*”
- 2.6. **Illustrations:**
- 2.7. Some of us need the aid of **glasses** to help us to see. (or contacts, Lasik)
 - 2.7.1. But, we can all **see** the **physical world** around us w/our eyes.
- 2.8. **But, we are all limited** in what **our eyes** can see?
 - 2.8.1. For centuries we knew nothing of **germs**, until **1676** when **Anton van Leeuwenhoek** discovered microorganisms. - He did not make the connection why food spoils(*Louis Pasteur did that*), but he did establish that there were **forms of life** that were **not visible to the naked eye**.

- 2.8.2. At the other end of the spectrum, we had no clue of **how many stars** were “*out there*” until the invention of the **Telescope**.
- 2.9. We just need the **right optics** to be able to **see more**:
- 2.9.1. **Binoc’s** to see father; **telescope** to see even farther; **glasses** to see clearer; **microscopes** to see closer; **night vision** to see in the dark.
- 2.10. Remember the **Cross-View or Parallel-View** pictures?
- 2.10.1. You stare at a picture, then when your vision either **crosses** or goes **parallel** you see the **hidden picture**, w/in the picture! [computer drawings]
- 2.11. So the importance of our “**other eyes**” or our “**spiritual eyes**” being 1st opened, then used.
- 2.11.1. I noticed the more I worked on that book full of “hidden pics” I got better & better at training my eyes to see 3-D, (another dimension)!
- 2.12. When we are told to *open the eyes of our heart* he is saying, “**understanding** the scriptures about God is only part of **knowing** God!”
- 2.12.1. **How do we learn about God?** We read His Word & learn about His attributes, His nature, his character, & thus we learn a lot about God.
- 2.12.1.1. **But are we experiencing Him?**
- 2.13. **Read** - **Jer.9:23,24**.
- 2.13.1. The word **knew** (yāda’) means *far more than intellectual knowledge*.
- 2.13.2. **It conveyed** the sense of **a close personal relationship**; and **protection**. - **It was** even used of the **intimate relations** experienced by a husband and wife -**It means** far more than intellectual knowledge
- 2.14. **Example:** If you’re **single** & looking for **a date**, there are about **50 million** web sites to find a date.
- 2.15. Let’s say you find a number of people that **seem interesting**, would you run out & marry the person who had the best written profile?
- 2.15.1. We need to **spend some time with the person** & **get to know them** before we decide that we **love them**.¹
- 2.15.2. **The same is true of God!** – His word should **warm our hearts**, & **intrigue our minds** as we read about the miraculous, & His loving nature, but **we fall in love with Him** by **starting a relationship with Him** & having our own **personal interaction** with Him.
- 2.15.3. That’s what we do when we “**open the eyes of our heart!**”
- 2.15.3.1. We move beyond just seeing Him with our **physical eyes**, by **reading & learning** about Him through the bible, & we see Him for who He truly is...**a loving God who wants a love relationship w/us** that moves beyond head knowledge.

¹ Opening the Eyes of the Heart; by Doug Henry; Ephesians 1:17-1:19; Sermoncentral.com

- 2.16. **More Illustrations:** (Let's look at each of these **logically & analytically**)
- 2.17. **Music** – A sheet of music is only a mathematical representation of it; only sticks & dots on a lined page. Or, I can show you an audioscope which measure wave lengths. [But this isn't experiencing music!]
 2.17.1. But you really need to **hear music** to experience it! [Give me my iPod, w/my Bose 2 headphones]
- 2.18. **Sunset** – You can even describe **color mathematically**. [But this isn't experiencing a sunset!]
 2.18.1. But you really need to **see orange** to know how it looks!
- 2.19. **Delicious Dinner** – You can describe *taste anatomically*(phys structure), or the *chemical reactions* which takes place when we bite into a lemon.
 2.19.1. But you'll never experience your *taste buds dancing* from the *wonderful explosion of a BBQ'd steak(medium rare)* in your mouth, **until** you enjoy one yourself!
- 2.20. You can describe **God theologically** (& list out his attributes, creation, redemption & such) but unless we **experience God ourselves** we will never truly **know him!**
 2.20.1. **Taste & see that the Lord is good!** Ps.34:8
- 2.21. We must **open the eyes of our heart** to **see & know Him** more.
- 2.22. We must **not** see with only our **regular eyes** because:
 2.22.1. **Trials** will never make sense; **hard times** will never make sense; **death** will never make sense; **pain & illness** will never make sense; **spiritual warfare** will never make sense.
 2.22.2. We must see past our **current situation**, & know **our loving God is on our side & looking out for our good**.
- 2.23. **Knowing God Intellectually** is important – we must know the truth about God.
Knowing God Volitionally is important – trusting, obeying, & worshiping Him.
Knowing God Morally is important – practicing doing right & loving.
Knowing God Experientially is important – know him intimately.
 2.23.1. **How did Paul do it?**...Sounds like in prayer(communion) with Him!
 2.23.2. **Not with new knowledge** to the brain;
But changing the disposition of the heart!
 2.23.3. The whole Christian life involves an **unfolding & enlarging** of the **hearts openness** to the **things of God!**
 2.23.4. We don't need **more truth**, or **better truth**, we just need our **spiritual eyes open** to the **truths!**
 2.23.4.1. [Elisha praying for his **servants** eyes to be opened to the spirit realm]
- 2.24. We'll have **better spiritual vision** if we hold onto: **His Promise** to us, **His Power** for us, & **His Position** over/above us.

- 2.25. **HIS PROMISE!** (18b)
- 2.26. **Hope** – What a **wonderful future** he has promised to those He called.
- 2.26.1. **Hope is the opposite of despair!**
- 2.27. G.K.Chesterton, “Hope means hoping when things are **hopeless**, or it is no virtue at all...As long as matters are really **hopeful**, hope is mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is **hopeless** that hope begins to be a strength.”
- 2.28. There is a painting of an old burned-out mountain shack. All that remained was the chimney...the charred debris of what had been that family’s sole possession. In front of this destroyed home stood an old grandfather-looking man dressed only in his underclothes with a small boy clutching a pair of patched overalls. It was evident that the child was crying. Beneath the picture were the words which the artist felt the old man was speaking to the boy. They were simple words, yet they presented a profound theology and philosophy of life. Those words were, **“Hush child, God ain’t dead!”**
- 2.29. **HIS POWER!** (19-20a)
- 2.30. **Power** – The same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in believers²... **That’s power!**
- 2.31. Note the **pregnant synonyms**: “*exceeding, greatness, mighty.*”
- 2.31.1. And so we sing, “*There is power, power, wonder working power in the blood, of the Lamb!*”
- 2.32. **Q:** In which area of your life tonight could you use **this kind of power?**
- 2.33. **HIS POSITION!** (20b-23)
- 2.34. **His Position in Heaven** – **at the right hand in the heavenly places.** (20b)
- 2.34.1. Speaks of His **Rank**.
- 2.35. **His Position on Earth** – **appointed head of the church.** (22,23)
- 2.35.1. Speaks of His **Authority**.

That’s why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn’t stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I’d think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength! All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. (Message Bible)

² Geneva Study Bible Notes; Eph.1:19,20; pg.1862