What God Doesn't See

Today's Scripture

"He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel."
NUMBERS 23:21

Today's scripture is part of the irreversible blessing we read about yesterday that God placed in Balaam's mouth. It gives us even more reason to rejoice as we learn to see what God sees. Take a closer look at what God says in the verse above and just pause for a moment. Was there iniquity in Israel? (When God used the word "Jacob" here, He was referring to all the children of Israel.) Was there any sin in Israel? Or was everybody in the encampment perfect?

If you were to zoom in from the top of the mountain in the encampment of Israel, it's not hard to imagine that a wide variety of imperfections, sins, iniquities, and wickedness were present throughout the camp. But the question is, did God see it?

Look at Numbers 23:21 again. Notice that God did not say there was no sin or iniquity in His people. He simply said He did not see it. Similarly, He is not saying that there is no sin in you. What God says is, "I don't see it."

Wait a minute, how can an unbendingly holy God not see sin in me?
It is because those same holy eyes saw all your sins punished in the body of Jesus Christ. Your sins were punished into nonexistence.

In the Israelite encampment, even though there were iniquities, sins, and wickedness, God did not see any of them because the blood of bulls and goats, which they offered up to the Lord daily, covered the children of Israel. How much more true that is for us today, we who are washed clean forever by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our beautiful Savior.

Under the old covenant, the Israelites enjoyed a temporal covering through the animal sacrifices, but for us, the atonement and payment for all our sins by Jesus Christ is eternal. That is why God does not observe sin and iniquity in you, nor has He seen wickedness in you. When God looks at you today, He sees you as a righteous, forgiven, healed, favored, blessed, accepted, and beloved son or daughter because of the cross of Jesus.

Now, do you see yourself as God sees you?

Today's Thought

I am washed clean forever by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, my beautiful Savior.

Today's Prayer

Father, thank You that my sins were punished into nonexistence in the body of Jesus Christ. Thank You that I have been washed clean forever by the blood of the Lamb of God. I believe that You see me as Your beloved child today, righteous, forgiven, healed, favored, blessed, and accepted. Thank You for eradicating every wrong belief I have about You and how You see me, through the light of Your Word. Amen.

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

The Key to Faith

Today's Scripture

…fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
HEBREWS 12:2 NASB

As humans, not only do we have a propensity to zoom in on every little flaw in our physical and emotional makeup, but we also have a tendency to know, remember, and replay in our minds the sins, failings, and mistakes we have made. We condemn ourselves for even our smallest flaws instead of focusing on how God really sees us—perfect in Christ.

This is why it takes faith to believe that God sees you righteous. It takes faith to believe that He does not see you in your sins, that He does not observe sin or iniquity in you. It takes faith to believe that He means what He says when He says, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Heb. 8:12). It takes faith to believe that God will not remember your failings and mistakes!

But Pastor, my sins are staring right at me. How can I have faith to believe that God doesn't see them?

The key to faith is found in looking to the source of faith—Jesus. As the Bible says, "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith" (Heb. 12:2 NASB). Your faith to believe is found in Jesus! The Amplified Bible puts it this way: "Looking away (from all that will distract) to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith (giving the first incentive for our belief) and is also its Finisher (bring it to maturity and perfection)."

In other words, turn your eyes away from your own flaws, imperfections, failings, and mistakes, and just fix your eyes on Jesus. The more you see Jesus and His finished work, the more faith arises in your heart to believe that all your sins are truly forgiven. You can start on a clean slate and have a brand new beginning in Christ. The old is gone, and the new has come!

Today's Thought

The key to faith is found in looking to the source of my faith ---Jesus.

Today's Prayer

Lord Jesus, I turn my eyes away from my flaws, imperfections, failings, and mistakes, and just fix my eyes on You. Thank You for Your unchanging promise that You will not remember my failings and mistakes. Because of Your finished work, I am free to start on a clean slate and receive Your fresh mercies every day. Amen.

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

From Glory to Glory

Today's Scripture

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

I believe that Jesus is doing a great work in your life right now. Maybe you can't see it because there's something that you have done in your past that you just can't seem to shake off, that seems like weights around your feet holding you down. Today is the day for your breakthrough. Learn to see what God sees by fixing your eyes on Jesus.

You need to understand that what you see or how others see you is not as important as how God sees you. Many people think that God sees them in their sins and is just waiting to pounce on them to punish them. This wrong belief produces wrong living. If you see God this way, you can't help but be in constant fear, insecurity, and anxiety over your past sins. Today, make a decision to turn your eyes to Jesus, for He has already made you, the believer, righteous with His blood!

In fact, the more you behold Jesus, the more you are transformed "from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). Fixing your eyes on Jesus is the greatest holiness. Many think they have to do more in order to be more holy, accepted, and loved by God. The truth is, when you behold Jesus more and see His love, His forgiveness, His abundant grace, and His gift of righteousness purchased for you with His own blood, you will be transformed supernaturally.

Holiness is a by-product of seeing Jesus in His Word. When you see Jesus and receive His love and grace every day, your heart is transformed inwardly. This is not outward behavior modification. This is real change that is sustained by a heart touched by His grace and by an emancipated conscience that is forever freed from guilt. This is when that addiction begins to drop from your life. This is when that fear begins to dissolve in His perfect love, and that condemnation arising from your past mistakes is cleansed by His precious blood.

What a life! This is the life that God wants you to experience. Can you see it? Can you see what He sees?

Today's Thought

The more I behold Jesus in His grace, the more I am transformed from glory to glory.

Today's Prayer

Father, thank You for the glorious, abundant life You want me to experience every day! Through Your Word, I want to behold more and more of Jesus. I ask You to keep showing me more and more of Your Son, His grace, and His beauty. I believe that as I fix my eyes on Jesus, I will be transformed from glory to glory by Your Spirit. Amen.

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

Break the Cycle of Defeat

Today's Scripture

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
ROMANS 8:1 NASB

People who believe erroneously that God is hard on them for their failures will inevitably be hard on the people around them, and most of all, they will end up being really hard on themselves. They cannot forgive themselves for the mistakes they've made in the past and end up punishing themselves, whether they know it or not. It's a vicious cycle of defeat. The more they can't forgive themselves, the more they hurt themselves with all kinds of behaviors, and the more they end up bound by various destructive addictions. This leads to even more guilt, which in turn drives them to punish themselves even more---and the cycle continues.

I believe the root cause of many sinful habits, fears, and addictions can be traced to condemnation. I want to talk to you today about going after condemnation as the root to help you receive God's forgiveness in those areas so that you can break out of your cycle of defeat and step into a new cycle of victory.

Are you living with some unresolved guilt and condemnation today? I have great news for you. When you realize that God's heart is not in condemnation but in forgiveness, your entire life can be turned around for His glory! I have personally witnessed so many lives transformed when they just take a small step of faith to believe in His Word and receive His forgiveness in their lives.

Instead of punishing themselves for their mistakes and disqualifying themselves, these people began to correct their beliefs and receive God's forgiveness by seeing Jesus taking on their punishment. They began to see their Savior qualifying them to receive every blessing from God for their marriages, families, and careers.

Right now, I want to encourage you to release the built-up guilt and condemnation for whatever mistakes you've made over the years to the Lord.

Would you pray today's prayer with me? It's a simple but powerful prayer. I encourage you to pray this prayer every time you fail and experience guilt and condemnation in your heart. Stop punishing yourself—your answer is found at the cross of Jesus. I promise you that when you turn to Jesus and remind yourself just how forgiven and righteous you are in Christ every time you fall short, you will start living like the forgiven and righteous person Jesus has made you.

Today's Thought

God's heart is not in condemning me but in forgiving me.

Today's Prayer

Lord Jesus, I don't want to live under guilt and condemnation anymore. Today, I release all my failings, sins, and mistakes into Your loving hands. And I receive Your forgiveness right now into my heart. Thank You for Your precious blood that washes me whiter than snow. Right now I stand in Your righteousness, favor, joy, and peace. Amen!

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

God Loves You Perfectly

Today's Scripture

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
ROMANS 5:8-9

God is a God of forgiveness. He knows you perfectly and still loves you perfectly. We are slaves to the idea that if someone sees our flaws, they won't love us anymore. Well, while that may be true in human relationships, God is not like that.

God sees all our imperfections, failings, and flaws on Jesus at the cross. Our sins and ugliness do not turn Him off. In fact, to Him they are occasions to demonstrate His grace and forgiveness through the blood of His Son, who has removed all our sins efficaciously at Calvary.

So don't be embarrassed about your flaws, mistakes, and imperfections. God knows your weaknesses better than you do, and He loves you just the same. His Word reminds us that Jesus is not someone "who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses." Instead, Jesus was tempted in all points, yet He was without sin (Heb. 4:15). He is not disappointed with you, and He is not waiting for you to live up to a set of dos and don'ts before He forgives and loves you. The Bible says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Rom. 5:8-9).

Did you get that? When did God love you?

That's right, when you were still a sinner. Before you even knew Him, when you were still in sin, He already loved you. How much more today, when you have been cleansed by Jesus' blood and made righteous! Having received Jesus' righteousness, you are righteous forever. Even when you fall into sin, your sins don't make you a sinner again.

When you fall short today, you are still the righteousness of God. This is because your righteousness comes from Jesus. In the same way that a beautiful butterfly cannot morph back into a caterpillar, once you have been made righteous by the blood of Jesus, you cannot morph back into a sinner. Knowing your righteous identity in Him then gives you the power to overcome every sin, every addiction, and every bad habit!

Today's Thought

God knows me perfectly and still loves me perfectly.

Today's Prayer

Father, thank You for demonstrating Your love toward me, in that while I was still a sinner, You sent Jesus to die for me. Thank You that though You know my every flaw and failing, You still love me perfectly. Despite my imperfections, You still see me righteous today because of Jesus. Today, I believe that through Your gift of righteousness, I have the power to overcome every sin, every addiction, and every bad habit in my life. Amen.

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

Effortless Change

Today's Scripture

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."
JOHN 15:4-5

I'd like you to picture a strong and healthy tree. A strong and healthy tree does not worry about producing fruit or getting rid of the dead leaves on it. As long as it receives the right amount of sunshine, water, and nutrients, it will have healthy sap flowing in it that is brimming with all the right nutrients and that naturally pushes out all the dead leaves. And as long as its inward life—its healthy sap life—keeps flowing, new leaves will spring forth on this tree and good fruits will naturally grow and flourish on all the branches.

As you begin to receive the sunshine of God's favor and take in the water of His Word, as you begin to feed on Jesus' forgiveness in your life and your righteous standing in Christ, the dead leaves of guilt, fear, addictions, and every type of disorder will begin to be pushed out by the new life of Jesus within you. The transformation you will experience, when it is not based on your own discipline and self-control, is truly effortless. It is no longer, "How will I overcome this anger problem?" or "How will I beat this cigarette addiction?" or "How can I curb this habit of overeating when I am stressed and insecure?"Instead, it becomes, "How will the Jesus in me overcome this anger problem, this cigarette addiction, and this habit of overeating?"

The fruits of your success will be effortless. One by one, the addictions, dysfunctions, and negative emotions will begin to drop off from your life like dead leaves, and new leaves (new positive thoughts and attitudes), new flowers (new desires and dreams), and new fruit (new behaviors and habits) will begin to flourish in your life.

Jesus' word to you today is simply to "abide in Me," and you will bear much fruit.

Today's Thought

As I begin to receive the sunshine of God's favor and take in the water of His Word, as I begin to feed on Jesus' forgiveness in my life and my righteous standing in Christ, the dead leaves of guilt, fear, addictions, and every type of disorder will begin to be pushed out by the new life of Jesus within me.

Today's Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that I am a branch in Your great vine and that all I have to do is abide in You. I acknowledge that apart from You, I can do nothing, and that all I need for life and victory flows from You to me. I believe that the fruits of my success will be effortless as I simply receive and feed on Your grace for me every day. Amen.

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

Win the Battle for Your Mind

Today's Scripture

For as he thinks within himself, so he is.
PROVERBS 23:7 NASB

I want you to be aware that as you begin practicing some of the keys that we have been discussing, you'll experience some battles in your mind that will challenge your beliefs. Be encouraged to know that you don't have to be afraid of these battles. Jesus said, "and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Based on God's Word, right believing is the key that unlocks the treasures of God in your life, giving you access to the fullness of His love, grace, favor, blessings, and forgiveness. Jesus has already paid the price on Calvary's hill. The hindrance then between you and your victory is your wrong beliefs. The battle has to do with your beliefs.

The enemy knows that if he can control your thought life, he can manipulate your emotions and feelings. For instance, if he can make you entertain thoughts of guilt, failure, and defeat, you will begin to feel lousy about yourself, physically weak, and even depressed.

Our emotions are flags that indicate to us what our thoughts are. Thank God for emotions. They tell us if something is terribly wrong with our thoughts. Many of us are not cognizant when our thinking slides down a slippery slope to fear, doubt, pessimism, and anxiety. However, God has designed us in such a way that we can quickly recognize our thinking through our emotions. Try this: whenever you begin to sense negative emotions, such as fear, worry, guilt, and anger, stop and ask yourself, "What am I thinking?"

Your emotions follow quickly at the heels of your thoughts. If your thoughts are negative, you will naturally produce negative emotions. Conversely, if your thoughts are positive in Christ, you will produce positive emotions.

That is why there is a battle for your mind. The devil wants to keep your thoughts negative so that he can keep you defeated. He is a master of mind games, and he doesn't play fair. When he first tempted Adam and Eve in the garden, he made them doubt God's motives by insinuating that God was deliberately withholding something good from them, when in reality God was protecting them. The devil's strategy hasn't changed—he is still using fears, lies, accusations, guilt, and condemnation to ensnare believers today and to make them doubt God's perfect love, forgiveness, and superabounding grace.

Are there areas you are fearful and anxious about today? Realize that those fears and anxieties indicate the presence of wrong beliefs in your life that God wants you to be freed from. Replace those wrong beliefs with right beliefs based on God's Word, and you will eradicate those fears and anxieties. Through the power of right believing, you will win the battle for your mind.

Today's Thought

Right beliefs and thinking positive thoughts in Christ will launch me toward my breakthrough.

Today's Prayer

Father, thank You for the emotions that indicate what my thoughts are and warn me when my thinking is sliding down a slippery slope to fear, worry, guilt, and anger. Help me to be aware of the battle that is going on in my mind and to be able to see through the enemy's lies, accusations, guilt, and condemnation that would ensnare me. I declare that through the power of right believing in Your love and what Your Son, Jesus, has done for me, I will win the battle for my mind. Amen.

Today's Reflection on Right Believing

NOTES

DATE / /

C&D

SERVICE TIMES

Sundays:

11:00 am EST In-Person Morning Worship

11:00 am EST Live Streaming via www.caroldixon.net and CDM App

11:15 am EST Live Streaming via YouTube and Facebook Live

Wednesday Nights:

7:00 pm EST Live Streaming via www.caroldixon.net and CDM App

7:15 pm EST Live Streaming via YouTube and Facebook Live

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