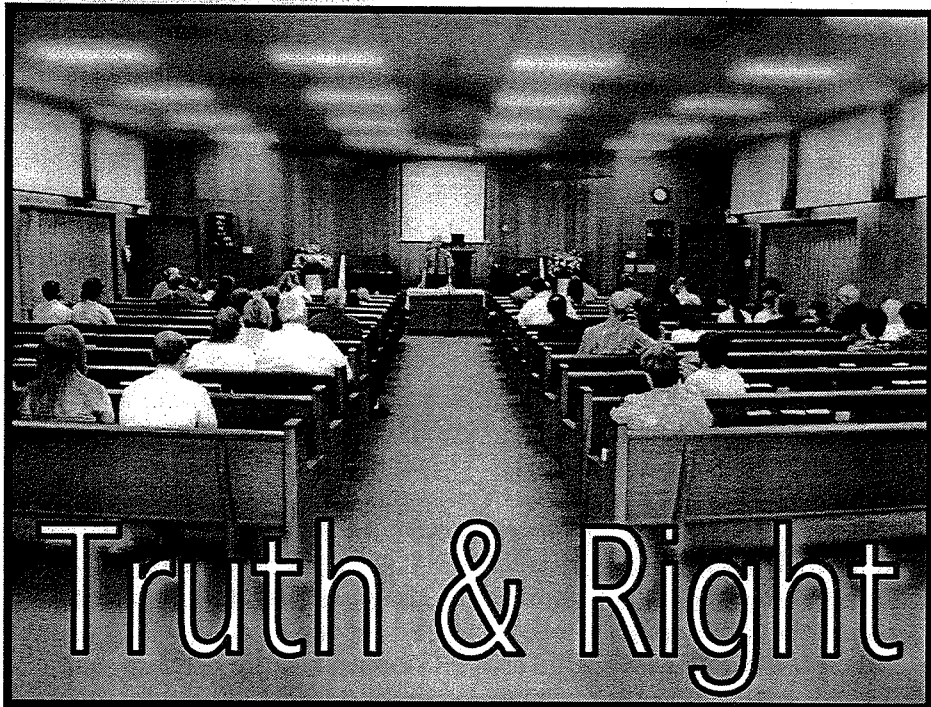


In search of...



Volume 08 Issue 2

January 13, 2013

Have You Seen?

There is a hymn (located, among other places, in the supplement to the "Hymns for Worship" book that we use here) titled, "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord"? The song as a whole is about the fact that in everything around us, including but not limited to the wonders of nature, we can see our Creator and behold the power of God. But the fact that the song is asking the question of "have you seen?" reminds us of a sad truth: many have not and do not see Him in their day to day

lives, despite the fact that the evidence surrounds us all of the time.

The first verse brings up the ocean and how small we can feel when standing beside it. If you have been to the ocean, then perhaps you understand how endless it can seem, and wonder at how it goes on and on, not just in directions that we can see, but also the incredible depth that it has; even the best scientists are still wowed by what is found on the ocean floor and in crevasses!

Bring to mind how God asked Job, "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?" (Job 38:16) It does not take much for us as a species to realize just how much we do not know, how tiny we are in the grand scheme of things, and yet millions of people doubt the very existence of God!

In the second verse, the author brings to mind looking at the sunset and the multitude of colors and effects that are made by the last hours of daylight. Consider, even ignoring the aesthetic side of things, the sun as God has created it and established its power. We here on Earth are just far enough away from the sun to avoid being burned up yet are also close enough to avoid being one giant ball of ice. How is that for evidence of a Creator? Scientists have done studies which have shown that regular exposure to sunlight gives us vitamins that are essential to not only our bodies' health but also to our state of mind. It has even been shown that depression & suicide rates skyrocket among those who rarely see the sun. I find myself amused at how modern science is doing no more than agreeing with what God has said for thousands of years: "Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun." (Eccl. 11:7)

A rhetorical question is asked in the third verse, if you have ever stood at the cross and seen Jesus hanging in pain. Obviously none who now live were there on that fateful day, but through God's word, we can see him through the "eye of faith." The real question is, how often do you do so? On the first day of the week, when partaking of the Lord's Supper, or daily when you study the scriptures? The bible gives us a detailed account of His suffering for a reason: "And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'" (Luke 23:33-34)

When you come to the fourth and final verse of the song, it mentions two things: first, the Lord being present when a Christian stands "in the family," and secondly the idea that you can see "the face of Christ in your brother." As any bible scholar will tell you, these come from specific verses. Jesus told us that when we come together to worship He will be with us: "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on Earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

(Matt. 18:19-20) What a cause for rejoicing! To know that Christ is with us when we assemble is a great comfort.

The idea of seeing Jesus in the face of another Christian is not trying to imply any kind of possession or indwelling by the Holy Spirit, for we know from the scriptures that God does not take away our free will and that the time of miracles has long since passed. What the last verse is saying is exactly the same thing that the apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian brethren about the transformation of being a Christian: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20) If you wear the name of Christ, then you should reflect Him in your thoughts, words, and actions. Others should be able to see Him and His power at work in our lives.

So that is what the song is saying throughout the verses, but what about the chorus? It says that Jesus is here in plain view, and that all one has to do is to open their eyes, and He will show it to them. Clearly this refers to what we read in Rom. 1:19-20, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible

attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

In essence, this is just a repeat of what the verses were saying the whole time, that we can see God and His power through the creation and especially through the love of Jesus and our fellow Christians. So, have you seen Jesus, my Lord? It's not hard to do. Faith is not an obstacle course; we have much evidence to trust in. But are you looking? That is the question.

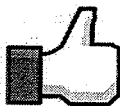
Jarred Currence

We have a new sister in Christ!
Here is her information to add to the directory:

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Transgressions

T W W J Z Q N T U O Y E U E Z V C V C N
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 F S T E A L R I X J R K Z F C R V M D A
 H X S R V K Y W P E X D K L X A S D J L

- We are not to take the Lord's name in V_____
- The Scriptures tell us covetousness is I_____
- It is a sin not to A_____ with the saints
- Knowing the R_____ thing to do but not doing it
- To go against your C_____ is sin for you
- The P_____ of life leads us away from God
- Jesus said whoever L_____ has already committed adultery
- "Let the thief no longer S_____"
- Being A_____ with a brother will be liable to judgment
- Partaking of the Lord's Supper in an U_____ manner
- Showing P_____ convicts us as transgressors