

In search of...

Truth & Right

Volume 08 Issue 51

December 22, 2013

We Shall See Him

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:25-32)

Simeon was just one of many to have the privilege of seeing

Jesus when He lived & walked here on this Earth. We know that Jesus lived for about thirty-three years, and during His Earthly ministry traveled all around Judea teaching, healing, and setting for those around Him and for us today a perfect example of service and humility. Imagine what it must have been like to have seen & heard Jesus, to be a witness of Him speaking with authority and performing signs & wonders!

Sometimes we have trouble thinking of Jesus as a real human being, a real person, and not as a character from a story. But just because we live nearly 2,000 years later should not mean that He is any less real to us! In fact, in many ways, it gives us a distinct advantage over His contemporaries. For one thing, we are told that the physical form of Jesus wasn't "special;" it didn't stand out. "Who has believed what he has heard

from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him." (Isa. 53:1-2)

Not only did Jesus not have any kind of special physical appearance, we know sadly that many who were witness to His coming rejected Him. They did not see that He was the Son of God, or at least, they didn't want to see it: "And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?

Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.' And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief." (Matt. 13:53-58)

He was rejected not just at Nazareth, and not just by those close to Him, but by many, especially the leaders of the time, the scribes and Pharisees and chief priests. They called Him a blasphemer, a drunkard, and in

the end it was their malice that whipped the crowd into a frenzy and convinced Pilate to have Him crucified. Even though they could physically see Jesus, they were blind to what was right in front of them.

As I said, though, we are different. We have the advantage of hindsight and having God's Word revealed to us in its completeness. We can see Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world. We can see what His death accomplished in offering us forgiveness of our sins. The Bible is not complicated. Yet, even with all of that available, do we see Him? In our day to day lives, do we see Jesus? Many seek for Him; many more claim to know Him. But the scriptures teach us that only those who follow after Him and obey His commandments may draw near to Him.

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." (Heb. 10:19-23)

It is in this sense that we can see Jesus here and now.

We should see Him through the eye of faith, and furthermore we should see Him in our lives, molding us to be like Him. We should see Him in our brothers and sisters in Christ, in their faith and zeal and love. Those baptized into Christ are the children of God. As such, we have a familial relationship with Jesus and with each other. Are you seeing Jesus in the work & worship of the local church? If not, why not?!

Christians, of course, have an even greater hope. Those who are found faithful will be with God in Heaven for eternity. There, we will not have bodies like we do now. Eternity & spiritual bodies are hard things for us to imagine, and the glory of Heaven is really beyond our comprehension, but it is where those who belong to Christ long to be. Like all children, we desire to be safe at rest at home. And there, finally, we will be able to literally see Jesus in all His glory! "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." (1 John 3:1-3)

Jarred Currence

Happy Moments,
Praise God.

Difficult Moments,
Seek God.

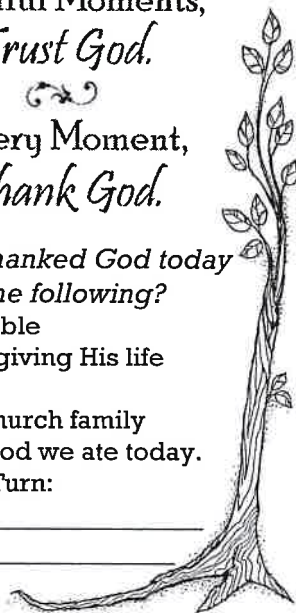
Quiet Moments,
Worship God.

Painful Moments,
Trust God.


Every Moment,
Thank God.

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
 - Jesus giving His life for us.
 - Our church family
 - The food we ate today.
 - Your Turn:
-
-



This bulletin is published by the
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BIBLE Trivia!

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. Paul believes that his special calling is to do what?

- a) Instruct the apostles
- b) Preach the gospel to the Gentiles
- c) Lead the church
- d) Travel to Jerusalem

2. According to Paul, which of these is beyond human understanding?

- a) The love of Christ
- b) What God is able to do
- c) Both
- d) Neither

3. According to Paul, which is a sign of spiritual maturity?

- a) Following new teachings
- b) Blindness of heart
- c) Childlike innocence
- d) Speaking the truth in love

4. Paul tells husbands to love their wives in what way?

- a) As they love their own bodies
- b) As Christ loves the church
- c) Both
- d) Neither

5. What does Paul tell the Ephesians about giving thanks?

- a) Give thanks always for all things
- b) Give thanks so that you will be blessed
- c) Give thanks to mothers for their childbearing
- d) Give thanks instead of speaking foolish words

6. From where did Paul write his letter to the Ephesians?

- a) The temple
- b) Athens
- c) Prison
- d) The home of Timothy

7. Who raised Esther?

- a) Nehemiah
- b) Mordecai
- c) Enoch
- d) Luke

8. In the time of Esther and Mordecai, what was the name of the king's wicked manager who wanted to kill the Jews?

- a) Herod
- b) Ahab
- c) Haman
- d) Joab

9. What was Moses' brother named?

- a) Simon
- b) Amram
- c) Levi
- d) Aaron

10. The Pharaoh's order that the slaves had to provide their own straw for brickmaking was a reaction to what?

- a) Moses wanting to free the slaves
- b) The celebration of Passover
- c) A recent famine
- d) Moses' request to go into the wilderness to celebrate a festival to God

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES: Each month the following month's Bible Trivia answers will be located here.

