

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc  
Easter 7 – May 28, 2017  
“Spiritual Cataracts”  
John 17:1-11  
Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

*Use this insert for home study of the text for today,  
and for personal assessment of your faith*

We live in a world that is moving at warp speed. So much has been invented, developed and improved in our lifetime than ever before. The “Big Box Stores” are running out of space for all the choice options we have. More people are shopping online giving them access to far more products.

We also live in a world that is looking for something after this life. Many religions claim to have the answer – just follow these steps to happiness. But their quest never reaches satisfaction. They just can never do enough to reach the goal. Their vision of the goal is clouded by changing choices, unreachable standards, and loss of interest.

How different for us as God's redeemed children. The answer we too may be seeking – IS NOT IN US! Our steps to happiness and the fulfillment of life can only be found in Jesus. That is the core belief of our religion (Lutheranism) and faith. Our spiritual vision is clear and focused solely in Jesus. Soon the speed of life will end, and our eternity will be calm, peaceful and forever in the presence of the Trinity. So where is your eternal life?

- 1) Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am, you may be also.” (John 14)
  - How do you envision heaven?
  - How different is that from your vision of hell?
  - What do you think you will be doing in heaven?
  
- 2) At Easter, we celebrate the empty tomb. Though graves will hold our remains until Jesus returns, He tells us our tombs will be empty also when He calls us by name and takes us home to heaven.
  - How do you envision the day Jesus returns?
  - How would you know it's Jesus if you've never seen Him?
  - How has faith prepared you for that day?

3) Jesus proclaims in the Scriptures what eternal life will be like. We can get caught up in the physical description of heaven, and forget about the focus (cannot see the forest for the trees). The central focus is this...

- *Heaven is where Jesus will be*

- *Heaven is where Jesus has been*

- *Heaven is where Jesus is now*

- *Heaven is where Jesus is with you*

- How does this spiritual vision remove the “worldly cataracts” that confuse and mislead other religions?
- Why is it so hard for people to “just believe” as Jesus says?
- Why do we struggle from time to time as the world does?

4) Once cataracts have been removed, clarity of vision returns – at least it should. The same could be said of sin. How awesome forgiveness of sin is when sin is removed and we again see the power and grace of Christ. God no longer remembers our sin and the cloudiness of our life.

- How does this bring us true peace?
- How then does the hope of heaven become more yearning?

Until Jesus returns, God will continue to provide mankind far more than we need and could ever use. He gives us limitless choices but also challenges us to make the right choices for the benefit of our faith and spiritual clarity. Many times, even when our “flesh” craves what others have, true faith leads us to say NO to things which would cloud our vision, shake the foundation blocks of our faith, and take our eyes off the prize – eternal life WITH Jesus IN heaven.

As we age, we seek help from vision professionals, even to the extent of surgery to correct deteriorating vision. As aging Christians, we too, seek the help of a loving and caring spiritual professional – our Creator, Who will restore not only our physical vision, but also our spiritual vision back to what He intended and created in the Garden of Eden. All of that happens by faith in His Son, Jesus, that will sustain us into heaven – “Be faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you a crown of life”. Ah, clear vision and life WITH Jesus FOREVER!

Let the miracle of John 9:1-11 happen to you!

(Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind)

*-To God Be the Glory -*