

Looking to Jesus

by Rev. Lane Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 16C) + Back to School
25 August, A.D. 2019
Isa 66.18-23; Heb 12.1-2 (2019-20 theme versæ); Lk 13.22-30

Introduction

When you hear music, do you also see it as having color and shape? Can light *speak*? What if you could *smell* the color blue?

25% of the world has something funky going on in their brain, known as synesthesia...

What is synesthesia?

What is Christian novelist RJ Conte's theory?

CCT: Jesus Christ is God's forgiving embrace of the creation; "looking to Jesus" is to embrace the _____ of God's glory.

RJ Conte, "Your Brain in Heaven." URL: <https://blonderj.wordpress.com/tag/synesthetic-bible-verses/>. Accessed 9 August 2019.

I. The Bible and the Senses

"Synesthetic" Bible verses...

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! . . .
" (Psalm 34:8, ESV)

The LORD is not an idea that is believed abstractly.
He is _____. Of what does this remind us?

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **having the eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints," (Ephesians 1:16–18, ESV)*

The heart _____.

*"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads **the fragrance of the knowledge of him** everywhere. For **we are the aroma of Christ** to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? (2 Corinthians 2:14–16, ESV)*

Eternal life—salvation—is _____.

What do modern synaesthetes know that was axiomatic (obvious) to the ancients?

Be included in the new St. Paul's Lutheran directory

Lifetouch will be photographing all of our families for a new church directory.



What to expect

- A professional photography session, no session fees.
- View your images after your session and make your selections.
- You will receive one FREE 8x10 standard print and church directory plus other special offers.
- Bring in a food item for the food pantry and receive \$5 off any order placed

Photography dates

August 28th - August 31st

Photography hours:

Weekdays 2PM to 9PM

Saturdays 9AM to 4PM

Sign up for your photography session

- Go to www.splco.org
- Call Lifetouch at 1-866-756-0281
Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
- Visit sign up tables after service on upcoming weekends

Lifetouch

churchdirectories.lifetouch.com

What can be better than having a drink with friends, eating yummy food, and talking about things that are truly important?



Reformation Tap Society

Craft Beer

Friendly Conversation

Serious Theology

Each month we'll gather from 5:00–5:30 pm to hear the brewmaster tell us about a new beer, and then we'll sample it (or just hear about it if you're not a beer fan ☺)! At 5:30 our presenters, with beer in hand and jolly in mood, will take the mic and give a conversational talk on a serious theological subject. Presenters will talk and take questions until about 6:15, and then we'll eat and chat amongst ourselves, concluding at 7:00 pm.

Third Sundays 5:00–7:00 pm

BrewFinity Brewery

N58W39800 Industrial Rd. Suite D. Oconomowoc, WI 53066

www.brewfinitybrewing.com

September 15

"Sayings I Wish Jesus Never Said"

Presenter: Dan Torkelson

The ancient senses:

1. Physical: taste, touch, smell, hearing, sight
2. Mental:
3. Spiritual: (_____ of the above)

In Christ we have a God who can be _____:

1 John 1:1-2 (ESV)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

Think about "Thanksgiving"...

At St. Paul's we have the living Christ at the _____ of math and literature and gym and art! We are able to cultivate the "_____ heart"!

II. Looking to Jesus

2019-2020 Theme Verse:

Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews calls us into a God-centered world that is *alive*, _____-sensory in every “sense” of the word: physical, mental, and spiritual.

“Looking to Jesus”—as the writer of Hebrews intends us to understand it—is not just to gaze upon the cross. Why?

Conclusion:

We Praise You and Acknowledge You

“We Praise You and Acknowledge You” (LSB 941) is a hymn adaptation of the ancient *Te Deum*. What does it call us to understand and practice?

How does this understanding of “looking to Jesus” change your understanding of yourself? The world? Your life?