

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

HEALTHY EYES SEE CLEARLY

Luke 11:33-36 “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore, be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

Having a cataract clouds an eye and makes it difficult and sometime impossible for the eye to function properly. Light entering an eye needs to be bright and clear for it to see clearly and accurately. A cataract bends and twists and even blocks light that enters an eye so that the message the optic nerve receives and sends to the brain is distorted and under the severest conditions is blocked entirely.

In today's devotional verses Jesus uses a metaphor to symbolically depict what happens when the Gospel illumines the eye of your heart so you see clearly Jesus Christ as God's promised Savior sent by Him to take away His condemnation and punishment of your sins. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) The “good news,” the Gospel message must be seen with eyes of faith and heard with ears that hear the Word of God.

Your baptismal instruction, the teaching of God's word, your coming into God's house to hear His word proclaimed and receive Jesus body and blood, in, with and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are the means used by the Holy Spirit to keep your eyes clear so the light of Christ enters into your heart to place Jesus completely into its center and core.

Dr. Art Just writes in his commentary on Luke, “When kept pure according to the Word of Christ. . .Baptism and the Lord's Supper make for a church (the body of Christ) in which the light of the Gospel shines through clear eyes of healthy faith, illuminating the whole body of Christ, brightening the entire household of God,

lighting the way for others to be called out of darkness into God's marvelous light."

Prayer: Jesus, You are THE light of the world driving out the darkness of Satan, sin, the evil world and my wicked flesh showing me the path You have prepared for me to heaven. Send Your Spirit into my heart to keep the Gospel message clear and giving me faith by which to embrace it for my salvation. In Your holy name. Amen.

Light of Light, O sole Begotten Radiance of the Father's face,
Word made flesh, who lived among us Full of truth and full of grace,
Shine upon our human darkness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.

Word eternal, through Your being God created all we see,
When the empty spaces echoed With the Father's "let there be. . ."
Light and life burst from the glorious Power of Your majesty!

Still Your brooding Spirit hovers Over chaos, dark and deep,
Calling out with invitation: "Rise, awaken from your sleep;
Christ the Lord will shine upon you And from death your soul shall keep."

Come, Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit In our hearts Your work begin,
Bring the healing restoration Of Your image lost by sin;
From Your fullness all receiving Grace on grace, new life within!
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