

Faith and Sight

2 Cor.4:16 – 5:11

16: therefore, we do not lose heart (1-2...14)

- Inward vs outward man
- From birth to death, we care about physical body, looks, etc.

17: 'light affliction'?? Verses 8-11

- Temporary.
- Eternal weight of glory... Incomparable. Immeasurable. Out of all proportion.

2 Co.12:1-5

2 Cor.4:16 – 5:11

18: not looking at things that are seen...

- We see “things that are not seen” (eternal)
- Hb.11:25-27

5:1a: human body – tent

- Not permanent ... not secure
- Ac.18:3

5:1b: building: permanent, secure; true eternal security.

2 Cor.4:16 – 5:11

5:2: *sigh, groan*

5:3-4: Paul is not a Stoic

- Natural to shrink from death

5:5: *this very thing*: life to swallow mortality (v.4)

5:6: *confident*: of good cheer, courage. Ph.1:23

5:7: *live by faith*, not appearances. Walking by faith is depending on God.

5:8: resumes thought of v.6

2 Cor.4:16 – 5:11

5:9: *aim* (all-consuming passion): ambition; aspire. 1 Jn.3:3.

5:10-11: our constant motivation

- Body is wasting away
- We are responsible for actions in it
- Gal.6:7

There is no necessary conflict between natural and supernatural.

We need both to meet needs / to obey God.

But faith and sight do not always get along.

I. Sight, Reason, and Faith
are separate

Sight

Everything outside of faith

Includes all that belongs to senses or reason

Mt.5, sun, rain . . . sunset (our senses enjoy)

- Sunday a.m. –golf, fishing (enjoy)
- “I don’t need baptism”
- “I prefer singing with a band”
- “I enjoy skits, not preaching”
- “I like bands, not singing”

Sight

Reason

A part of sight

Context determines nature and value of reason

Ability to think, draw conclusions, etc.

Thermometer: 97°

May / may not enjoy it

No direct connection with senses

Sight
Reason

Faith

Where sight ends, faith begins

Did King Tut live?

- Is it agreeable? [Immaterial]
- Is it reasonable? [Demonstrable] No
- Is it a matter of faith? Yes
 - Jn.20:27-29 – King Jesus
 - Our faith based on eyewitness testimony

¹Fact ... ²Testimony ... ³Faith

Paganism: religion of senses; satisfies lusts.

Ro.1:29-32

Rationalism: religion of reason; may deplore consequences of sin, but has no remedy.

1 Co.1:18

Christianity: religion of faith. Jn.18:36. Ac.9:6

- Mt.16:24
- Some want to turn Lord's religion into paganism (*what I like*)
 - Recreation . . . Music . . . (1 Co.9:16)
 - Col.2:8 ... 3:17

Colossians 2

⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Colossians 3

¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Some would turn the gospel into rationalism.

I. Sight, Reason, and Faith are separate

II. Faith and Sight
are similar

Sight implies (requires) three things

- Organ of sight: eye
- Medium of sight: light
- Object of sight: something to see

Faith implies (requires) three things

- Organ of faith: capacity to believe. Ro.10:10
- Medium of faith: word of God. Ro.10:17.
- Object of faith: Savior, Jesus. Ro.10:9

I. Sight, Reason, and Faith are separate

II. Faith and Sight are similar

III. Faith is Superior to Sight

1. Faith has extended view (*farsighted*)

Hebrews –

- 11:1, *conviction ... not seen*
- 11:13, *promises ... not received*
- 11:26, *reward ... not of this world*
- 11:27, *invisible God ... not 'seeable'*
- 12:2, *Jesus ... not dead*

2. Faith has an exact view.

Hebrews 11:30-31

Josh.2, Rahab's choice

- Double-walled city vs. freed slaves
- Trained soldiers vs. little combat experience
- Latest weapons vs. brick-makers

Things are not always
as they appear

2. Faith has an exact view.

Hebrews 11:30-31

Josh.2, Rahab's choice

- Baptism: what virtue? Ex.12:22-23
- Worship: robed 'reverend,' chorus, organ...
1 Sm.15:22-23
- Work: save nation... Mt.7:22-23
- Attendance: golfers... Hb.10:22-25

Some think they can use God's creation
as excuse to disobey God's commands

3. Faith has an elevated view.

Hebrews 11:32-35

- “God’s commands are too hard to keep”
- 1 Jn.5³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.