

The Reality of God

Seeing Christ in Our Every Day Lives

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12: 2).

Women's Bible Study: Duluth Bible Church (4:30 p.m.)

Speakers: Carol Helland & Faye Radtke

Lesson One: "*Seeing Christ in Our Circumstances*" (Carol: September 19)

Lesson Two: "*Seeing Christ in Awe*" (Faye: October 17)

Lesson Three: "*Seeing Christ in Forgiveness*" (Carol: November 21)

Lesson Four: "*Seeing Christ in Prayer*" (Faye: January 16)

Lesson Five: "*Seeing Christ in Marriage*" (Carol: February 20)

Lessons Six & Seven (March 3-5: Ladies' Bible Retreat):

"Seeing Christ in the Seasons of Life"

Spring & Summer: **Faye**

Fall & Winter: **Carol**

Lesson Eight: "*Seeing Christ in the Home*" (Faye: April 24)

Lesson Nine: "*Seeing Christ in Our Tomorrows*" (Carol: May 15)

Introduction to Series

- **Read Psalm 27: 1-6 & 13-14.:** "Gaze"- (Hebrew: *chazah* - to see; to perceive; to contemplate; to behold)

The Beauty of the Lord

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek . . . To behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple (Psalm 27:4).

- Did you see that God is **your light; your salvation; and your life?** The trusting soul lives behind a triple door of protection.
- What is the one thing David desired? _____
- Where did God ultimately show His beauty? _____
- David wrote that he did not lose heart. Why? (vs. 13) _____

The Beauty of Redemption: "Redeem" - "to set free by paying a price"

*You know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold . . . but with **the precious blood of Christ**, as a lamb without blemish and without spot (I Peter 1:18).*

- Where in the New Testament is God's beauty ultimately shown? _____

The Beauty of the Risen Savior

By this Man Jesus Christ, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:12).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (I Peter 1:3).

The Beauty of the Glorified Christ

*His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, '**Do not be afraid**; I am the First and the Last (Revelation 1: 16-17).*

Lesson One: Seeing Christ in Our Circumstances

1. In His Presence
2. In His Power
3. In His Providential Care
4. In His Promises
5. In His People

Seeing Christ in His Presence

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

I will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

Perplexed but Not in Despair

*We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; **perplexed, but not in despair**; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).*

Paul was perplexed regarding his trial. He was at a loss as to know what was going on. There is a danger involved in perplexities—to lose heart. There were plenty of reasons for discouragement, but Paul was “*not in despair.*” Why? He knew what he possessed in Christ. God would see him through.

Habakkuk, an Old Testament prophet, wrestled with the perplexities of life:

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,

though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,

Though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer,

He enables me to go on to the heights (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

Immanuel: “God with us”

Behold, a virgin shall bring forth a Son, and they call His name Immanuel (Matthew 1: 23).

One of the names of our Lord Jesus is Immanuel—"God with us." What a wonderful God and Savior: He is with us as He promised! We sense His presence and make Him real in our circumstances.

These are facts: "I am with you," the Lord Jesus says. "I don't care who is against you; I am with you." The Lord Jesus is with you in His Person. You don't see Him; you can't always feel Him; but He is with you.

The apostle Paul wrote: "At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. **But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me**" (4:16-17). What God did for Paul God will do for you.

Seeing Christ in His Power

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure" (Psalm 147:4-5). Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6: 10).

When we hear the word "power," we think of might and authority. So when we see Christ in our circumstances, we can visualize Him as the Mighty One. Our Lord Jesus is the Power of God, for all power is committed unto Him. The Lord Jesus speaks and it is done! And this Powerful One loves us! We rest in His power to strengthen and help us.

Seeing Christ in His Providential Care

He [Christ] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17).

Providence means "God sees beforehand." He sees to your circumstances before they even occur. The circumstance you are in right now you can know that the Lord Jesus was there before you arrived. When you trust Him, when you allow yourself to see Christ in His providential care, you say, "God was there before me." And Christ holds all things together, so you don't have to.

If you are lonely, Jesus Christ wants to move into your life and get acquainted with you, too, and have you get acquainted with Him. Then you and the Lord Jesus together can solve problems.

Seeing Christ in His Promises

When the going gets tough, reach for your Bible. Allow the Word of God to settle you.

As you abide in Christ and His Word, the Holy Spirit never points downward but always upward to Jesus Christ. He shines the spotlight on Him. You look vertically at Him, not horizontally at your problems: *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"* (2 Cor. 4:6).

Seeing Christ in His People

Let us therefore encourage one another and build one another up (I Thessalonians 5:1).

Through our faith in Christ's death and resurrection, we are connected one to another. The friends you make in the Lord Jesus last forever. It's great to have Christian friends but also to **be** a Christian friend. The world is full of discouragers, but we have been called to encourage each other in the Lord.

Conclusion

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen will only last a short while what is unseen will last forever (2 Corinthians 4: 16-18).

The choice is yours. Do you trust God with your circumstances? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is holding all things together in your life . . . and working them all together for your good? That's what Scripture says. We make choices daily as to what ground we are on: Either to be defeated or to be delighted in the Lord. Our choice affects our thoughts and attitude toward our heavenly Father, others, and our circumstances.

When you begin to know God, you have confidence in the God you know. You can't trust a God you don't know. The reality of God comes as you begin to know Him personally—not just know about God but to claim Him as the Living God, not boxed in by reason or logic. You begin to see Him in your everyday life. He lifts you above everything you know, and you realize the presence of God—He is with you.

Reflections

Read the following chapters in Psalms as you gaze upon the LORD's beauty and majesty.
Write notes about what you see.

Psalm 29

Psalm 119:9-18

Psalm 119:33-37

Psalm 145
