

“BUT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN”

By Keith Greer

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) God’s people should look to things that are eternal, rather than those that are temporary. Sadly, we sometimes fail to focus on the unseen. This failure will account for some:

Being Atheists. *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.” (Psalm 14:1,2)* Some deny God’s existence. They put too much emphasis, and spend too much time, on the temporary and do not attend to spiritual things. The evidence is everywhere (*Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20*). But they miss it because they are too busy seeking ways to deny facts that are right before their own eyes!

Missing Salvation. *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)* God wants everyone to be saved (*1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9*). He sent His Son to redeem us by paying the penalty for our sin (*Ephesians 1:7*). Still, the majority will be lost (*Matthew 7:21; 1 Peter 4:17*). Why? We all have the same problem—dwelling on the temporary and denying the unseen! We must choose to be saved.

Denying the Resurrection. *“And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Romans 1:4)* *“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?” (1 Corinthians 15:12)* None of us are eyewitnesses of Christ’s resurrection—we accept it by faith. Yet, many deny the resurrection, based simply on human reasoning and wisdom. Because they cannot see it with the naked eye, it must not be real and is, therefore, impossible.

Rejecting Baptism. *“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21)* Whenever the subject of baptism comes up, many reject it because, according to the temporal view, there is no connection between baptism and salvation. But if we examine it with a view toward the eternal (spiritual) we can’t fail to see its connection to Christ’s blood (*Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:11,12*).

Falling Away. *“For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.” (2 Timothy 4:10)* Currently, a popular religious doctrine is known as “eternal security,” once saved, always saved. Wonderfully comforting, this doctrine does not originate in Scripture. Again, people dwell too much on what they see.

Not Accepting Trials. *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more*

precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6,7) Trials will come, and we will be tested. One survives the trials by keeping our eyes focused on the unseen instead of the seen! ***