

Great Smoky Mountains Messenger



A Publication of the Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Do You See What I See?

As we read through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, we often imagine what it must have been like to be there when all of those events were transpiring. What would it have been like to see that water transformed into grape juice? To see that man infirmed for 38 years to stand up, pick up his bed and walk? To see the five loaves and two fish multiply and multiply and multiply to feed 5,000 men (plus women and children), and to see the disciples collect twelve baskets of leftovers? To see that blind man behold the beauties of God's power and creation for the first time in his life?

Imagine being there. Imagine seeing all of these things. Then, imagine someone coming to you and saying, "Do you see what I see?" "Of course, I see what you see! What do you mean, 'Do I see what you see?' How could I possibly not see what you see? Everybody is seeing this, aren't they?"

Sadly, there are some who "seeing they do not see" (Matt. 13:13). As God told Isaiah regarding these kind of people, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive'" (Isa. 6:9). They have willfully chosen to close their eyes and not see. They have willfully chosen to blind themselves to the truth.

Even a matter that may be clearly seen to one person may be obscured to another. It has nothing to do with the validity of the matter under observation; it has everything to do with the hearts of the observers. At the end of John 9, Jesus spoke to some Pharisees, who had clearly seen the blind man receive sight and repeatedly heard his plain testimony of what had transpired. Yet, Jesus declared that these individuals were actually blind, for they had adamantly rejected Jesus' teachings and signs. The Pharisees still insisted, "We see" (John 9:39-41). But, seeing they did not see!

Think about this in relationship to us today. Is it possible that we, too, can actually think that "we see" the truth but be blind? Jesus indicated that such would be perpetually possible, when He asked, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). To verbally call Jesus "Lord" or "Savior" (as if one sees Him) but to disregard or disobey His commands (as if one does not see Him) is to be blind spiritually.

Here is an interesting test. Read some simple verses about baptism's place in God's plan of salvation (like Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21). Read them as if seeing them for the first time. Then, imagine Jesus coming to you and saying, "Do you see what I see?" — **David Sproule**



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Please Remember/Pray For:

Patsy Bevis
Ruth Byrne
Trevor Hayes
Kenny Gross
Les Jewell
Howard Yates

Sue Mercer
Skip Stewart
Heath Tolliver
Larry & Linda Valentine
Kyle & Samantha Williams Family



The family of Shawn Molloy. Shawn went on to his eternal reward on Monday evening. His funeral was held in McMinnville, TN yesterday afternoon.

Gratitude

We are thankful for the generosity of Shannon and Tracy Wade, who have given of their time, talent, and effort to update the countertops in the fellowship area. If you have not seen their transformational work, please take a look at our revamped countertops in the kitchen. Thank you Shannon and Tracy!

We are also thankful for a recent visitor who made a generous donation to our building fund in memory of our beloved brother Al Behel.

Upcoming Baby Shower

Ladies, please don't forget that on Sunday, 11 February at 3:00 p.m. there will be a baby shower for Ethan and Caroline Memolo. They are expecting a boy in March.

Ethan & Caroline are registered on Amazon. www.amazon.com/baby-reg/caroline-memolo-etha-memolo-march-2024-greenville/L89P3E8EGGYX?ref_=sw_r_apin_dp_A19TPQ1JG9JR46ZMYE&language=en_US.

- ◆ Tues., January 16, 2024, Men's Bible class at 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Sun., Jan. 28—Area Wide Singing at the West End Church of Christ from 3—4:30 pm.
- ◆ The women's class will be on a break until February 2024..
- ◆ Sun., Feb. 4—Potluck and Business meetings following AM service.
- ◆ Sun., Feb. 11—Baby shower for Ethan and Caroline Memolo at 3 pm.

Have something for the bulletin? Please give updates to Dale or Leah by Thursday.



<u>Pantry Needs</u>	<u>Food Assistance Program Lead for January</u>	<u>Current Building Loan Balance</u>
Paper Products 	Tracy Wade 	\$421,988.08

God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear the Gospel, Romans 10:17
- Believe the Gospel, John 8:24
- Repent of Sins, Luke 13:3
- Confess Jesus as God's Son, Matt. 10:32
- Baptized to wash away sins, Acts 2:38
- Faithful 'til death, Revelation 2:10

Today's Sermons

- ◆ AM —Why Can't We All Just Get Along?
- ◆ PM — Do You See What I See?

Check out the sermon archives on our website at
www.gsmchurchofchrist.com

Please come back and worship with us in Spirit and in Truth—John 4:24