

## **Opening Blind Eyes To Jesus Ephesians 4:17-21**

### **Introduction:**

1. Our theme for our missions month this year is “Opening Blind Eyes to Jesus.”
2. Of course, we are not speaking of a physical blindness, but rather a spiritual blindness that causes people to stumble in the darkness of their sin.
  - Have you ever tried to walk in total darkness? It is not a good feeling, is it? Have you ever been walking in darkness, and all of a sudden a light comes on? What relief. What joy. Now you can see clearly!
3. In our text, Paul is drawing a contrast between two different groups. He describes a group that is stumbling in darkness (vs. 17-19). Then he contrasts them with the group of people to whom he is writing. vs. 20-21
4. There is a two-word difference between these two groups – Jesus Christ! One group heard the good news of Christ and believed on Him. The other group does not know about Jesus Christ. That is why they are in darkness.
5. This is the reason our theme is “Opening Blind Eyes to Jesus.” It is not opening blind eyes to religion, or church tradition, or higher education, or political reform.
  - It is Jesus Christ that changes lives. “*If any man be **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**...*” 2 Corinthians 5:17
6. This month you will be introduced to some families that have made a decision to leave the comfort zone of America and go to a foreign land and live. Why? They have a passion to see blind eyes opened to the saving, life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
  - They believe what we read in Ephesians 4:21, “*...the truth is in Jesus.*”
  - They want others to know and experience that truth. They desire for their blinded eyes to be opened to the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.
7. We must partner with missionaries to help in opening blind eyes to Jesus. This is one of our church’s core values. Why is this so crucial?

### **First, because without Jesus, people will never understand their lost condition**

1. Notice in verse 17 that people are walking “*in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened*” (vs. 18). Notice the word “*darkened.*” In their minds and understanding, they are “in the dark.”
2. Satan is the ruler of darkness. Ephesians 6:11-12
3. Satan’s goal is to keep people in his kingdom of darkness. 2 Corinthians 4:4a
  - Satan does not want people to understand the darkness they are in and where it will eventually lead. He wants to keep them stumbling around in spiritual ignorance. Ephesians 2:2-3, 5:3-8a
4. This is where the importance of Jesus Christ comes in. John 8:12, 12:46
  - There is no light apart from Jesus Christ, period.
5. Without the light of Christ, people are destined to stumble around in the spiritual darkness of sin, having no clue of the eternal condemnation that is awaiting them when they die (heading for a cliff blindly). John 12:35

6. There are only two groups of people in the world: those in darkness, and those in the light. Without Christ, there is no light. So, therefore, we must partner with our missionaries to get the message of Christ out to the world.

### **Second, because without Jesus, people will never know true, divine life**

1. Notice in verse 18 that these people that Paul is describing are “*alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them...*”
2. Because they are ignorant of Jesus Christ, they are, in turn, completely devoid of the life of God. cf. Ephesians 2:1, 12
3. There are so many people that live day in and day out, yet never know true life. As Ephesians 2:12 states, “*...having no hope, and without God in the world.*”
4. What is the answer? How can people know true, divine life? Look at the next verse, Ephesians 2:13. “*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off (alienated from the life of God) are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*”
  - We are reconciled to a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:20-21
5. Do you know that you are in a right relationship with God? Do you know true life?
  - “*For the wages of sin is death (it is sin that places us in Satan’s kingdom and will lead to death); but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (this is how you get out of Satan’s kingdom of death and darkness and receive life).*” **Romans 6:23**
6. Jesus came from heaven to earth with the good news that people could have life. John 6:33, 35; 14:6
7. But Jesus isn’t on the earth anymore. Jesus isn’t going to visit these countries we will hear about in the next few weeks. If those people are to hear about the life that Christ is offering, it will be through people like you and me.
8. If we don’t care, they are destined to stay alienated from the life of God. They will never know true, eternal, divine life. We should and we must care!

### **Third, because without Jesus, people will remain as prisoners to their sin**

1. Verse 19 is the picture of a person who is living in bondage to sinful ways, yet fails to even recognize the urgency of the situation.
  - “*Who being past feeling...*” – complete and total apathy
  - “*...have given themselves over...*” – to surrender; to put in prison
  - “*...unto lasciviousness, to work...*” – morally impure and unclean
2. Satan takes members of his kingdom of darkness and keeps them in total bondage. Christ, on the other hand, is all about liberty and freedom. John 8:32, 36
3. Notice verses 20-21 of our text. Christ teaches the believer a different way to live. vs. 25-29
4. Christ sets people free from the bondage of their sin, so that they are free to love and free to live a meaningful life that truly touches and impacts others.
5. But Christ cannot change a life that has never heard about Him. Notice these Ephesians had learned of Christ, heard, and been taught. But how had they heard?

One day a missionary by the name of Paul arrived in town and stayed there for over two years.

6. Paul taught these people all about Christ and the difference He can make in your life. Many believed on Christ and their lives were instantly changed. Acts 19:18-19
7. This is why we partner with these missionaries and help to get them get to the country they are going to. There are people in desperate need of a lifeline. If not, they will drown in their sin. Will you be a part of helping to open blind eyes to Jesus?