

# The Old Paths

Volume 21, Issue 18

June 29, 2014

## “God Sees What Man Does Not See”

Jarrold Jacobs

**W**hen Samuel was sent by God to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as the next king, he was sure that he had found the new king when he saw Eliab (I Sam. 16:6). Why was this so? He looked on his “countenance” or appearance, and his stature, and assumed that Eliab was the next king. *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart’”* (I Sam. 16:7).

When Samuel went to anoint the new king, and saw Eliab, he said, *“Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him”* (I Sam. 16:6). However, he learned very quickly that God was choosing the king, and not Samuel. Therefore, the new king would have qualities which pleased God, not necessarily Samuel! After meeting seven sons, and not finding the king among them, he asked for any more sons, and was told of David, the one whom God chose as king. Thus Samuel, *“anointed him in the midst of his brothers”* (I Sam. 16:12-13).

The lesson of I Samuel 16 ought to be taught again and again to people today! We need to understand that God has the ability to look on the hearts of folks when men cannot! God can judge motives, will, and inten-

tions, but man cannot do that. Jesus said, *“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them”* (Matt. 7:20). In other words, a man can see what one does or does not do. Yet, he cannot know a person’s motivation unless this is revealed. In contrast, God knows the inner thoughts and intentions of a man, regardless of whether or not they are revealed outwardly! Our Father sees what man does not see!

### God Sees Sin And Its Consequences. Man Does Not.

While men today look at folks and see only the “outward” man; God can see the “inner” man, including our sins. Not only can God see sin, but He knows what it does to our souls! For instance, read what God said to the people through the prophet Isaiah: *“Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil”* (Isa. 1:4-6).

Notice how God described those in sin. He said they were, “struck,” “sick,” “faint,” rebels, unsound from head to foot, wounded, bruised, and unmedicated. Perhaps when a man looked at

their outward appearance, these folks would have seemed healthy, happy, and without a problem. Yet, when God looked upon them, He saw the truth! (See also: Rev. 3:17) Paul, inspired of the Holy Spirit, said, *“...but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day”* (II Cor. 4:16). Notice please that what was described in the first part of this passage could be seen by all, “the outward man”, which is perishing. Yet, the “inward man” (the part God alone sees), is being renewed day by day.

Friends and brethren, which part most concerns us? Is it the part of man which we see, or the part which we do not see? When God looks at us, does he see a healthy soul; or a sick, diseased soul, in need of the spiritual “medication” provided by the Great Physician?

### God Sees All Good And Evil. Man Does Not.

Solomon declared, *“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good”* (Prov. 15:3). Man does not have this ability. While a man will see good and evil in his life, he cannot be in “every place” as God can (Jer. 23:24)! God sees it all, though! Seeing that this is true, does this not make Him imminently qualified to be our Judge (Rom. 2:7-11)?

Men and women can have vast amounts of experience in this life, but we can never match the experience God has! We may have seen a lot in this life, but we have not seen as much as God has! God is aware, He is omniscient, and He sees much more than man will ever see! He sees the good and the evil that man does not! Therefore, when He looks at us, is He looking at evil people or good people?

### God Sees Eternity. Man Does Not.

One of many amazing attributes God has is the ability to see "the end from the beginning." The many prophecies we find in the Bible are the result of God's ability to see into eternity. Therefore, God's prophecies are specific, accurate, and true.

To get a glimpse of the power God has, please read the following passages from the book of Isaiah. God says, "Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'" (Isa. 46:9-10). Later on, God says, "The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and I announced them; then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass .... I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you, lest you should say, 'My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them'" (Isa. 48:3, 5).

God can see the "end" from the "beginning." He lives outside the confines of time. Man cannot see such because we live moment-by-moment within the confines of time!

### Conclusion

When we compare God's abilities to man's, may we be humbled and put in our place! God can see the hearts of men. He can see the true nature of sin. God is omniscient, seeing all the good and evil. He also sees eternity, since He lives in eternity and not in the confines of time as men do.

Since this is the case, what is keeping us from putting our complete faith and trust in Him and His word? Seeing that we have

such an amazing and wonderful God, can we not also trust His word in everything? (Jn. 17:17)

Sadly, we have a world of people who will turn their backs on God, and deny His very existence! Is not such an act declaring that this person can do what God does, and see what God sees? What arrogance! Usually, it is the person who does not believe in God who accuses those who do believe in God of being "arrogant," and "intolerant." Yet, the truth is that the one who claims that God does not exist is the one who is arrogant; for such a claim says that this person has all the knowledge of the universe and knows God does not exist! A denial of God actually puts such a person in the place of God!

Friends and brethren, let us learn our place. Let us humbly, lovingly, and willingly obey the will of God. Let us fear Him (Ecc. 12:13; I Pet. 2:17), worship Him in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24), and live faithfully (loyally) for God all the days of our lives (Rev. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58). Let us thank God that He sees what He sees, and that He is so benevolent as to want us to be in Heaven with Him for eternity (II Pet. 3:9)!

## POINTED PARAGRAPHS

R.L. Whiteside (1869-1951)

By faith Noah built the ark. Faith only — that is, faith without works — is dead. Such faith never would have built the ark; neither does it ever accomplish anything nor bring any blessings. Faith prompted and guided Noah in building the ark, and so it is said that he built the ark by faith — a faith made perfect by works.

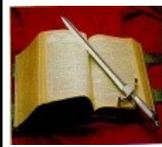
(In connection with this, see Genesis 6-8; Hebrews 11:7 - JJ)

God has always tested man's willingness to do His will. To be a real test, the thing commanded must be such that the person can see no connection between the thing commanded and the result to be obtained. Examples: The brazen serpent (Num. 21:4-9); Naaman's dipping in the Jordan (II Kings 5:1-19). Baptism is such a test.

To write the word of Christ upon the heart, or, what is essentially the same, to let it dwell in us richly, means more than to commit it to memory. It is to make it the dominant factor in our thinking and in our plans and purposes.

(The Kingdom Of Promise And Prophecy, p. 83, 99)

See episodes Of "The Ancient Landmark" [www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994)



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!  
Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.  
Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

#### Meeting Times:

- Sunday Bible Study - - - - - 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

Watch:

"The Ancient Landmark" Television Show airs on You Tube ([www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994)) and Insight Cable, channel 6

Listen:

"The Ancient Landmark" Radio program airs on WXMZ, 99.9 FM (10:30-11:00 am) and WLBQ 1570 AM (8:30-9:00 am) Monday-Friday. It is also broadcast online at: [thez999.com](http://thez999.com) and [beechtreeneews.com](http://beechtreeneews.com)  
Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs Phone: (270) 589-4167