

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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July 12, 2020

Full Peripheral Vision

by Warren Berkley

“See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,” Eph. 5:15.

Paul gives instruction for our good in this verse. And this is about the sound combination of mobility (walk) and full peripheral vision (circumspectly). God’s people are to be mobile and that mobility must be accompanied by circumspection, which simply means looking all around; full peripheral vision! Webster says of “circumspect” - Attentive to all the circumstances of a case or the probable consequences of an action; cautious; prudent; wary. The Greek word centers on diligence; taking care to guard against temptations and to live as one should through them.

When Jesus made His “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem, and in Mark’s report of this arrival, it is said of Jesus, He looked around at all things (Mark 11:11). We do

not believe this was the casual observation of a tourist, nor any limited focus. This was the serious perspective of One who was attentive to all circumstances. He had full peripheral vision of all that was happening in the behavior of Jerusalem’s people.

Like Jesus, we must look around at all things, being watchful with prayer; alert to the varied and subtle approaches of the enemy, and ready to abide in the Word of God through whatever temptations or trails may come. Let us not wander through life as fools, but “as wise.” To this I should add, be watchful of opportunities to serve others, reach out to them, listen to them and be equipped to help in the best way possible.

Memories Are Worth A Lot

by Warren Berkley

Phil. 1:3-5

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Think about memory, association and attitude. Paul tells the Christians in Philippi that he remembers his good association with them. And, that this memory is entertained with an attitude of joy and gratitude to God.

Paul first came to Philippi, simply to preach the gospel to the lost. As he undertook that challenge, he was mocked, seized and imprisoned. He was not treated well in Philippi (see 1 Thess. 2:2).

But now (as a prisoner in another place), Paul is able to write back to Christians in Philippi without any bitterness. He remembers them with an emotion of joy. "I thank God in all my remembrance of you."

Just pause here and reflect on how valuable this attitude is. What a high example and standard for us to imitate. It is positive, mature, godly and healthy – to remember the good and reject bitterness and resentment. The painful things of the past ought to be managed by exalting good things and good people. Gratitude to God makes this conceivable.

There is another part of this good attitude

toward the saints in Philippi: "...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

How did they "partner" with Paul? What was the nature of their participation or fellowship?

The Christians in Philippi acted toward Paul, based on their commitment to God. They were committed to God, therefore committed to His servants. Not only through prayer.

Later in this epistle we learn that they responded to Paul's needs. They sent aid to him once and again (Phil. 4:16).

It was not just that Paul was in "their thoughts and prayers," though that is certainly true. Their commitment to God led to their sacrifice for His servants. Their interests in the lost caused them to support those who faithfully preached the gospel to the lost. Their love for brethren prompted their active love for Paul. All of this can be summarized as their fellowship with Paul.

Because they were connected with God, they were connected with His servant, the apostle Paul.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - cancelled until further notice.

Services for June & July - For the months of June and July, we have decided to recombine the services. We will meet for **one** service at 10:45 a.m. There will **not** be a Bible class or evening service, and there still will **not** be a Wednesday evening service. We will re-evaluate toward the end of July. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry Richardson
Karen Hallmark
Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Joy Ulrich
Kevin Barth
Lisa Trammel
Joel and Tori Moore

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

