

WHAT A BLIND MAN SAW

INTRODUCTION

A. Matthew 13:10-17

There are many who can see perfectly with their eyes, but are spiritually blind.

B. 2nd Corinthians 5:7

We must be able to see without sight!

C. Acts 9:1-18

While blind, Saul saw some things many fail to see.

I. CONSCIENCE IS AN UNSAFE GUIDE

A. Acts 23:1

His conscience never disturbed him in all that wickedness.

B. Acts 26:9-11

According to Paul's thinking, persecuting Christians was the right thing to do.

C. Proverbs 14:12

The way that seems right to the man is often a dead end.

II. RELIGIOUS ZEAL IS INSUFFICIENT

A. Philippians 3:3-7; Acts 22:3-4

The very reason Paul persecuted the church was his enormous zeal.

B. Romans 10:1-3

While zeal is commendable, it is unrighteous if it lacks knowledge.

III. TRADITIONALISM IS DANGEROUS

A. Galatians 1:13-14

Another explanation for persecuting the church was that Paul was a traditionalist.

B. Matthew 15:1-9; Colossians 2:8

Tradition is often set in opposition to God's will.

C. **2nd Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6**

The only traditions worth following are those left us by the apostles of Christ.

IV. THE NEED FOR PROPER AUTHORITY

A. **Acts 9:1-2, 14; 26:10**

As a persecutor of the church, Paul had authority from the religious leaders of his day.

B. **Matthew 21:23-27**

Jesus implied that authority in religion will come from one of two sources, one legitimate – the other not: either from heaven or from men.

C. **Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17**

Jesus is the one with all the authority. What we do religiously must be done in His name.

V. PRAYER DOES NOT SAVE

A. **Acts 9:11, 6, 18; 22:16**

Once in Damascus, Paul spent his time in prayer, but he wasn't yet saved because he hadn't yet been told what he must do which was to be baptized.

B. **John 9:31; Isaiah 59:1-2; Proverbs 15:29**

God ignores the prayers of the wicked.

C. **Matthew 21:22; 1st John 3:22**

The conditions of acceptable prayer include faithfulness and obedience.

VI. ALL SIN IS FORGIVABLE

A. **1st Timothy 1:15**

If the chief of sinners can be saved, then anyone can be.

B. **Hebrews 7:25**

Salvation is Christ's purpose.

C. 1st Corinthians 6:9-11

Even the vilest of sinners is not beyond Christ's reach.

CONCLUSION

A. Ephesians 1:18

Have the eyes of your understanding been enlightened?

B. Acts 22:16

Be saved as Paul was saved!