What Do the Eyes of Your Heart See?

Tony Mauck · Acts 7:51–60

INTRODUCTION

- Lord, do not hold this sin against them. Receive my spirit, he said. And he breathed his last.
- We need to be impressed with the eternal spiritual undoing that befalls many and could befall us if we do not pursue our course steadfastly.

1 Jesus Standing at the Right Hand of God

Acts 7:55–56; Luke 22:69; Hebrews 10:12

- And Stephen saw the glory of God. And Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- Most often the New Testament talks about Jesus sitting at the right hand of God.
- Look at all these passages, five of them, that mention Jesus being seated at the right hand of God. That's not what we see in Acts 7.

2 A Heaven Response to These Events

Luke 15:7; 2 Kings 6:16; Matthew 10:29–31

- Jesus stands in heaven, witnessing the scene.
- Over one sinner that repents, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God in heaven.
- Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.
- Know that the spiritual realm is attending this spiritual battle that takes place in our world. Even when it seems no one is watching and heaven is very far away.

3 He Who Endures to the End Will Be Saved

Matthew 10:22; Acts 7:60

- He who endures to the end will be saved. That's what the prophets did.
- For the righteous death is only temporary. Throughout the New Testament, it's called falling asleep.
- It is time to awaken from sleep. This is not a time for spiritual slumber.
- Lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

4 Do Not Allow Pain to Divert Your Heavenward Gaze

- A lot of people get spiritually discouraged when they're in pain.
- Whatever aspirations and dreams he might have had for this life. Totally meaningless.
- You can be a faithful Christian and still, for reasons beyond your control, have a miserable life.
- We have every reason to rejoice as Christians, even in the midst of our pain, but everything about our lives may not be absolutely wonderful.

5 Do Not Allow Pleasure to Divert Your Heavenward Gaze

- Do not allow pleasure to divert your heavenward gaze, because as we saw in our auditorium class, that's only temporary too.
- All of those things we are simply stewards and managers of, they are not permanent.
- My circumstances may not be as severe as Stephen, but I'm going to need God to get through the worst of it.

6 What Do the Eyes of Your Heart See?

Ephesians 1:18–19; Luke 16:12; Psalm 119:2

- I pray that the eyes of your heart might be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of his calling.
- We should display extreme gratitude for the lavish provisions that we enjoy.
- We must not allow temporary, undependable things to dominate our heart.
- Know the surpassing nature and value of what the Lord provides.
- Blessed are they that keep his testimonies that seek him with the whole heart.

THE CHALLENGE

Embrace the provisions of salvation while there's time and opportunity.

MY NOTES