

THE BIG IDEA: How we see the world is a sign to the world.The Take-Off

[VIDEO - Signs you were raised a Christian]

That's a great video to remind us that the signs we're talking about are INTERNAL before they are EXTERNAL

We aren't trying to learn a new language - say the right Christian terms - act a certain way

Living things simply live and grow, and when we are alive in Christ, we find that we change as a result

But the change happens IN us before it spills OUT FROM us

Think about what we've talked about so far: agape love, hearing God's voice through His word, and peace

These are all given to us as children of God, and as we live in them, our lives are a sign to others of the life we've been given through trusting in Jesus and His work on the cross

Today's sign is no different.

One of the greatest signs of life is a new perspective on life. We see things differently because of Jesus.

You've probably heard the term "worldview" - that's what we're talking about this morning.

A worldview is most simply defined as "how we see the world" - it serves as the grid through which we interpret the things we experience in the world.

Basically, it's a belief system, and what we believe informs how we live and act.

The Bible is clear that our worldview changes when we trust Jesus, and that new worldview is a sign of life to others.

Let me show this to you in scripture.

We're picking one verse out of an entire chapter that deals with eternity: the eternal condition of man and the eternal mission of God through Jesus, and as a result of being reconciled by Christ (salvation - life), Paul writes that **the way he sees things has changed.**

“So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!” (2 Corinthians 5:16)

Right after this verse, Paul writes a verse that gets a lot more air time than the one we just read. Verse 17 says,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

When you take all of this together (as we should), Paul is saying that before Christ, we have one worldview, and after Christ, we have a different worldview.

One is temporal (meaning it doesn't last) and the other is eternal.

Don't let the word "temporal" throw you - it basically means temporary, something that has a specific time to exist.

This message is temporal (which you're glad about is you've already got the nods!) because it really will end!

The truth in it is eternal.

Make sense?

I would submit that this is one way that our lives become very different from those who aren't following Jesus.

We simply see the same things very differently because we have a different set of eyes.

Example: the infamous white and gold dress from 2015 (or was it black and blue??).

So, we live in a world where all of us experience the same things but our worldview results in interpreting the same things differently, and I want to take the rest of the time to show the contrast between the 2 worldview: temporal and eternal.

When we see the world through eternal eyes, I believe it highlights for the world that Jesus has changed us, or, as The Big Idea puts it, how we see the world is a sign to the world.

So, here are 6 major differences between a temporal worldview and an eternal one (or, in our case, the way we see the world BEFORE Jesus and the way we ARE LEARNING to see the world AFTER Jesus):

1. “What do I think?” vs “What does God say?”

- a. Everyone is seeking purpose in their existence, and if you had to pick one question to summarize each worldview, I'd pick these.
- b. Keep these 2 questions in mind as we move through the contrasts.

2. I'm at the center vs Jesus is at the center

- a. Ultimately, this is about who is sitting on the throne of our lives.
- b. If I'm on the throne, than everything I experience must be filtered through the question, "What do I think about what I'm experiencing?"
- c. When things affect me negatively and I respond with "I don't think that's fair" it reveals this temporal mindset or worldview.
- d. There are times when our opinion won't be in sync with God's word, and what we do in those moments reveals where we are on this scale.
- e. When we face those times, the temporal mindset changes God's word to match my opinion. The eternal worldview changes my mind to match God's word.
- f. Romans 3:4 / Let God be true and every man a liar
- g. 2 Corinthians 10:5 / take captive thoughts that exalt themselves against the truth of God

3. My happiness is the goal vs My holiness is the goal

- a. First, let's agree that God isn't a killjoy
- b. 1 Timothy 6:17 clearly says He gives us all things to enjoy
- c. But a temporal worldview makes my happiness the goal
- d. Luke 12:19-20 / rich fool - eat, drink, be merry
- e. Hebrews 12:10 / God wants us to share in His holiness
- f. Holiness isn't being monks and nuns - it's looking like Jesus.

4. Trials are part of the problem vs Trials are part of the process

- a. James 1:2-4 / this is crazy talk UNLESS we have an eternal worldview
- b. If my happiness is the goal, anything that is unpleasant is bad
- c. If my holiness is the goal, anything that is unpleasant can lead to a greater good, but only if we remember the 5th contrast...

5. I need to control my circumstances vs God is in control of my circumstances

- a. A few perspective altering verses first:
 - Psalm 8:3-5
 - Genesis 50:20
 - Romans 8:28
- b. Clearly, if God can take bad and make good, and can hold the heavens in His hand, He can be trusted with my circumstances, and that leads to our final contrast...

6. I trust myself more than anyone vs I trust God more than anyone

- a. The bottom line is trust, isn't it, and whoever we choose to trust is ultimately where we have to look for everything we could possibly ever need.
- b. So either I trust my plans, my abilities and my resources or I trust God's plan, God's abilities and God's resources.
- c. One is limited and the other is unlimited.
- d. One leads to panic and the other leads to peace, although it is sometimes a peace that we will not be able to explain to others (Philippians 4:7), which is why our Big Idea is so true: how we see the world is a sign to the world that we've been given life by a God who is greater than this world.

The Landing

This morning, let's end our time doing what we do when our eyesight is failing - let's spend some time allowing the expert to give us the lenses we need to see the world the way He does.

He can help us see the people who irritate us as people who need the same life we've been given.

Let's pray.