

Lenses

A lens is a miraculous thing. With a lens, you may take diffused rays of light and draw them together into a focal point where you may then get a clear picture of what otherwise would not be viewable. Most of the lenses we are familiar with are the eyewear we all seem to eventually need in our lives. These lenses are made out of glass or plastic and may correct visual defects in our eyes, or even defects in the associated musculature of the eyeball which may result in the loss of control of the motion of the eye itself.

There are other types of lenses which were designed to focus beams of light or electrons. These give us our evening entertainment; they are our television sets. Other lenses take the form of circular magnets and are used to focus particles or pieces of atoms in a particle accelerator and result in a clearer picture of what the inside of an atom looks like. You probably have heard of the Hubble space telescope....a series of highly refined lenses costing billions of dollars and were purported to give us a view of deep space, and thus look back into the creation process. We would, in effect, be looking back into time. Unfortunately, this astronomical panacea of the Hubble space telescope had lenses which initially were incorrectly ground and it therefore “needed glasses” in order to correct this malfunction. The appropriate opticians were consulted and the appropriate corrective measures were taken so that we now have a multi billion dollar visual aid which itself needed a visual aid.

The point I am trying to make is this. We may make lenses which improve our ability to see the world God has created. We may make lenses to increase our comfort levels and even our abilities to treat illnesses and diseases which hinder our lives both qualitatively and quantitatively. If we are making these lenses to improve our vision, we would be well advised to make sure we are aiming at that which is worth looking at in depth. You see, if we are looking at physical items with the hope of finding answers to spiritual problems, it does not matter how much we try to fit our viewing devices with the appropriate visual correction we still end up with a clear view of nothing. Our efforts would be better spent using spiritual lenses to focus not only on the creation but on the Creator. When we focus on God and His plan for our lives we will not put so much faith in the technological towers of Babel. These technological towers are, in effect, albatrosses around our necks and are curses like in the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner rather than the long and painfully sought after view point with which we may “see God”.

The book of Ecclesiastes portrays the quest of a man who was originally in focus with God. The Bible tells how God loved Solomon and was pleased that his first request was for wisdom to govern God’s people correctly. Yet, as life wore on, Solomon was left as the bitterly jaundiced author of a book wherein he is forced to the fatalistic resignation, not the spiritual acceptance, that we should fear God and keep His commandments. Spiritual lenses would have given him a better view not of the creation, but of the Creator.

1 Kings 3: 4-15

2 Samuel 12:24

Ecclesiastes 12: 13