

Dowlen Road
June 29,
2014

The Veil

INTRODUCTION

- A. Have you ever seen someone that is blind to the truth? We all know someone like that. No matter what the evidence happens to point to, they still hold on to their beliefs.
- B. Paul talks about this person in one of his letters to the Corinthians (**2 Corinthians 3:12-16**). He says these people have wear a veil so they don't see the truth. Paul tells us that the Jews had this veil over their hearts so that they would not see the Truth of Christ.
- C. Do you know someone like this? Someone with a veil over their heart? We are going to talk about this veil during the lesson and we are going to learn what it does, and how we should remove it.

WHAT IT DOES.

- A. Blind to God's existence.
 1. This typically doesn't apply to us as Christians, but there are many people in this world who wear this veil that hides them from the fact of God's existence. Even people who used to sit in this building. There is an entire movement that is dedicated to denying God's existence; the atheist movement.
 2. This isn't a new problem by any means.
 - a. Think about Pharaoh from the book of Exodus. He was wearing a veil and refused to accept the facts of God's existence (**Exodus 5:2**). This isn't surprising, though, because this is his first time hearing of God. Yet even after God shows His power to Pharaoh, Pharaoh still fails to believe (**Exodus 7:10-13; 7:20-24**). As a matter of fact, Pharaoh didn't believe in God until his back was against the wall.
 - b. Pharaoh, initially, was like the modern day atheist. It doesn't matter what the evidence points to, atheist will cling to their beliefs. The veil hides them from the facts of God's existence.
- B. Blind to God's worthiness.
 1. Many Christians and people who claim to be Christian wear the veil in this sense. They think that Christianity is just a game. They think that it is about me and my happiness, and God doesn't really care what I do. This is a big trap for us as Christians. This is one of the big reasons why people fall away from the truth. They don't truly see God's worthiness, so they are not serious in serving him.
 2. This is also one of the big reasons why people never find the truth. What's the point, if God only deserves what we want to give Him? Why do I have to teach others if God isn't worth it?
 3. Pharaoh was also wearing this veil.
 - a. Even after he accepting the existence of God, Pharaoh didn't take Him seriously as a God who must be worshiped. Instead, Pharaoh used God (**Exodus 8:8-15**). He only asked things of God because He needed them. Not because God is worthy to be honored.
 - b. His veil was hiding the fact of God is worthy to be honored.
- C. Blind to God's justice.
 1. These two points are similar, but there is a fine line between them. Some people do believe God is worthy to be served. They believe that God is worthy of honor and how we live does matter. They don't believe, however, that God will punish us for living contrary to his will.
 2. These people don't believe in Hell (or if they do, they also believe we will have a second chance after death to repent). They believe that God is too loving to send us to a place like that for all of eternity.
 3. You have to wonder if Pharaoh was thinking like this. It took him ten plagues, ten episodes of punishment from God and he still didn't get the picture. As a matter of fact, it was death (the worst

plague of all) that finally shook him. How far does God have to go to get us to see that His justice is serious?

D. This veil is a big deal. It can cause us to lose our souls.

HOW TO REMOVE IT.

A. See God's presence.

1. As I said earlier, the atheist movement is dedicated to denying the existence of God, no matter the evidence. So we need to make sure that we take the evidence seriously because when we do we will see God's presence.
2. The evidence for a God in this universe is outstanding. Even Paul mentions this (**Romans 1:20**).
3. As science has progressed, our faith in God should strengthen because God's power can be seen through the scientific evidence.
 - a. I don't have room in this outline to go through a deep scientific argument, But let me say that scientist don't know how life started on this Earth. I read a scientific article on PubMed entitled: "The RNA world hypothesis: the worst theory of the early evolution of life (except for all the others)" (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22793875>) This article is about how the RNA (**very similar to DNA**) world hypothesis is a horrible hypothesis on the origin of first life, yet it is the best we have so scientist tend to favor it.
 - b. In Stephen Meyer's book "Signature in the Cell," Meyer explains to us that the odds of life coming from non-life is about 1 in 10^{164} . Some people will say: "just give it time." Even if you gave random processes 15 Billion years (longer than the universe has been in existence according to an evolutionary time line) you wouldn't even get through half of the 10^{164} possibilities.
 - c. Random, natural processes have no chance at creating life.
4. God exist; the evidence is there. People just need to remove the veil so that they can see God's presence.

B. Proclaim God's Worthiness.

1. In order to see that God is worthy, we need to proclaim God's worthiness. This doesn't mean simply saying it with our mouths; this means living it. Some say that it doesn't matter how we serve God, but this is not what the Bible says. We need to take the evidence seriously
 - a. In the Sermon on the Mount, one of the more well-known topics in the Bible, Jesus tells us how He expects the citizens of His kingdom to act (**Matthew 5:20-48**).
 - b. This is a God who cares about how we serve Him.
2. God is worthy to be honored/served. In order to see this, we need to remove the veil; we need to proclaim God's worthiness.

C. Fear God's Judgment.

1. In order to see the truths of God's judgment, we need to have a proper fear it. God has warned us in His word that He will punish those who don't listen to Him so we need to take the evidence seriously
2. We can go back to the example of Pharaoh that we were using earlier in this lesson. Pharaoh did not honor God and because of this, he and his kingdom were punished.
3. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that even those who profess to be religious, but do not follow Christ, will be punished (**Matthew 7:15-23**).
4. We and the world need to understand that God will punish those who do not follow His will. We need to take the evidence seriously and fear God's Judgment. That's how we are going to remove the veil.

CONCLUSION

- A. This is a big deal. As I mentioned earlier: People who were saved are now lost because of this veil and people who have the potential to be saved haven't been because of the veil. (**2 Corinthians 4:3**)
- B. We need to make sure that we aren't veiled to the truth.