

# Bryan Station Baptist Church

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# THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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## SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

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'But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Cor. 4:3-6).

Of the physical senses I suppose that we are all agreed that the sense of sight is the most valuable and precious. If we had to give up one of the five senses, and could have our choice in the matter, we would give up any one of the others before we would



Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

Sunday School . . . . . 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service . . . . . 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

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surrender the sense of seeing. A blind man is a pathetic figure, groping and feeling his way, in a world that is so brilliantly lighted by the sun. But the blind man is in a state of physical darkness and cannot see objects, however bright the sun may be shining, and regardless of how plain the objects may be revealed. He is darkness dwelling in light.

But there is another kind of blindness that is far worse than physical or bodily blindness. The verses before us speak of a spiritual blindness--a blindness of the mind, or inability to see spiritual things. Seeing is often used in current speech as well as in the Bible as a metaphor for the mind or the understanding. We explain something to a person and then exclaim, "Can't you see that?" We

mean to ask if he can't understand what we have explained.'

Spiritual blindness is far more terrible in nature and extent than is physical blindness. It is sad for a man not to be able to see the beauties of nature, but is much sadder for him to be unable to see the glories of grace. It is bad to have no eyes for the field with its flowers and fruit; for the sea with its restless and awe-inspiring waves; for the animal creation in its wide variety of size and form and color; but it is far worse to be blind to the glorious gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. Spiritual blindness is far more prevalent than physical blindness. Only a comparative few of earth's inhabitants are physically blind, while every man, in his natural state, is blind to the gospel of Christ and other spiritual truths. Spurgeon said that all of us in our natural state were as blind as bats to the things of divine truth. Paul said that there is none that understandeth (Rom. 9:11).

Darkness is a Bible symbol of ignorance and man, in his natural condition, is ignorant of the things of the Spirit of God. The Lord Jesus said, "Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). He cannot understand the things of the kingdom. The gospel Paul preached was hid to the lost, that is, they could not understand it and appreciate it. The gospel of Christ is a great and glorious light; it is the light of salvation; it shows how to become righteous; it points the way to heaven; but the lost man does not understand it. Paul preached the gospel to all classes--to the natural Jew it was a scandal--a shameful story; to the Greek it was foolishness. Neither class understood it. It was hid because their minds were blinded. Paul prayed for the salvation of his brethren in the flesh. They were zealous of God, but ignorant of how to become righteous through faith in Christ, and were trying to establish their own righteousness (Rom. 10:1f). This is the condition of all who are trying to be saved by their own works. They are lost. The gospel is hid to them. They are blind.

SATAN IS THE AUTHOR OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS: In the garden of Eden, Satan promised our first parents opened eyes if they would do as he said. They obeyed him, and their eyes were opened to the fact of sin, but their minds were blinded as to how to cover it. In ignorance they thought they could provide a covering for their sinful and shameful condition. They thought their fall was something they could remedy. They failed and then God clothed them. And man is still trying to fix up and patch up and cover up and work up to where God will be pleased with him and accept him. The natural man ever thinks that he can clothe himself in the garments of his own making. He depends upon his own record for acceptance with God. Or, his mind may become so darkened that he will think there is no God for him to meet. And Satan, the god of this age, is behind all such thinking.

The mind of the sinner is the devil's fortress or stronghold by which he aims to keep the sinner in his possession. As long as the devil has the mind of the sinner he will have the sinner's soul. Here is a sinner; why isn't he saved? Is he too bad to be saved? No, a thousand times no! Christ died for the ungodly, and some of the worst men have already been saved. Paul reminds the Corinthians that some of them have been idolators, adulterers, drunkards, thieves, etc. (I Cor. 6:9-11). No man is too wicked to be saved. There is not a single sin in all the catalogue of iniquity

In human conversion--the work of the new creation--light comes to the sinner through the Word applied by the Spirit. Sin has darkened the understanding of man; all his reasonings with reference to the things of God are utterly wrong. He has wrong thoughts about himself, about God, and about sin and salvation. He needs light on all these things. And this light from the Holy Spirit works a change of mind so that the sinner's thoughts are different from what they once were.

Paul tells Timothy that the servant of the Lord must not quarrel with those who oppose his message, but preach in hope that some day God will grant them repentance (a change of mind) leading them to the knowledge of the truth, that they may recover themselves out of the devil's trap. Satan has ruined the human mind, but God can repair it. Satan has brought darkness into the human soul, but God can shine into it and drive out the darkness. May it please God to shine in some darkened soul today, that he may see the gospel way of salvation.