

The World through Easter Glasses

Easter...the most threatening season.

I would bet most of you have never thought of Easter as threatening, but to me it is. Easter is a time of spring and growth, of flowers, and the return of Alleluias.

Easter is also the time to put on Easter glasses like the ones Pastor Volley has been wearing recently, when we need to view the world through the eyes of the risen Christ and that is threatening.

I don't know about you, but I got a kick out of Pastor Volley's Easter glasses the first time he put them on. Then I got to thinking about the symbolism behind them.

Life and experiences condition us as to how we view the world. Our religious beliefs are part of that life and experience. We get used to seeing things a certain way, and we continue to see them in a certain way. Of course, that way of viewing the world gets old and out-of-date. We fall into the practice of seeing the world in only one way— even as Christians.

The Jews of Christ's era were not bad people, but they were people who grew used to viewing the world in one certain way. Christ challenged that world view. He challenged concepts the Jews had held for thousands of years. He challenged the Jewish concepts of family, of purity, and of God.

Like most people, the Jews did not react well when their world view was forcibly changed, and Jesus forcibly challenged them to examine the way they viewed the world.

Lent is the season of adjustment as we examine the way we view the world. It is the season of preparation for the Easter event, preparing us to view the world in a new way.

It is during Lent when we hear the following questions asked: Can a man be born again? Who is our brother?

Through the eyes of the risen Christ, the answer to both questions is obvious. A man can be born again and everyone is family. That answer means I must treat everyone as though they were saved and a Christian. It also means everyone is family and should be treated as such. That means I must change the way I view the world.

Like the Jews, we have several options for what we can do with our Easter glasses.

We can put them away and ignore our faulty vision. We can bring them out on occasions, wear them on Sunday mornings. We can throw them away, or we can wear them and act on our new world view.

Once we choose to put on the Easter glasses, we have the strength and courage to meet the threats and challenges because the one who gives us the glasses gives us strength.

Christ gives us the vision; Christ gives us the strength to act on the vision.

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