

WINDSHIELD WIPERS

-Ryan Parsons-

The other day, I was driving down the road when it began to rain. In a thoughtless reaction, I flipped on my windshield wipers. However, as they cycled back and forth, all I got was a smeary blur. I found myself squinting and repositioning myself to find a clear spot so that I could see the road. Not only was my windshield covered in grime, my windshield wipers were not working correctly. It was a little unnerving.

Clear sight is vital to life. Even those who are physically blind must rely on the sight of others to survive. Vision to see our path is vital, especially when you are trying to move forward without crashing into obstacles.

Paul, in a prayer for the Ephesian church, said: *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18)*. Basically, he was praying that the windshield wipers of their souls would clear away the rain and grime of the world so that they could focus their hearts on the Way (John 14:6).

Today, I believe Paul's prayer still applies to us. It is God's hope that the eyes of our heart (our souls) would be able to see the hope that exists only in Christ. In order to do this, we have to be able to identify two things.

What grimes up the windshield of our heart?

One of our first inclinations is to say "SIN!" While this is absolutely true (Isaiah 59:2), many times the "sin card" can be a crutch. Everything in our lives isn't sin. However, many things can clutter the view and keep us from fixing the eyes of our heart where they need to be; Jesus. Truth is, our lives are busy. We have work, wealth, education, relationships, love, fun, projects, sports, hobbies, vacations, goals, family,...you fill in the blank. These things often take center stage in our lives. If our primary focus is on them, we will have an obstructed view. In addition, the less we focus on Christ, the more susceptible to sin we become. Sin isn't only distracting, but also absolutely blinding.

What can clear away the grime?

Jesus is the answer! The hope He has provided is the solution to all of life. Not only that, but His example shows us how to clear our focus. The windshield wipers of our hearts is the word of God. Jesus, when faced with temptations in the wilderness, uses one thing to block Satan's attacks. He says "It is written" (Matthew 4:1-11). The Word, delivered to us, is the same solution. When distractions, temptations, and sin create a film of grime on the eyes of our heart, the only thing that can clear our view is God's word (Hebrews 4:12-13). Our automatic reaction

should be to search and recall the truths delivered to us and let it clean off the eyes of our heart. Using clear anecdotes or fortune cookie proverbs won't do it. The good advice you get from your friends may be good, but it isn't the thing that can clear the view. God's word is the answer (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

How is your view?