



Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

Welcome to our Worship Service!

November 12, 2017

Offering:-----General

○ □ ○ □ CHILDREN'S CORNER ○ □ ○ □

Dark Glasses

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:9-13
"We had so much fun!" Larissa said when she got home after spending the afternoon at the beach with a friend. She plopped down in a chair and looked around the room. "Why is it so dark in here?" she wanted to know.

Her brother laughed. "Because you're still wearing your sunglasses," he told her. Larissa laughed too and removed the glasses.

Dad smiled. "I just thought of something, Larissa." He reached for a Bible and opened it. "Put those glasses back on and come here a minute. I'd like you to read some verses for me." Dad pointed to the passage he wanted her to read.

Larissa looked at the Bible. "You mean with my glasses on?" she asked, and Dad nodded.

Larissa held the Bible a little closer. The print wasn't very clear, but she managed to read it. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." Larissa stopped reading and grinned at her dad. "Seeing through dark glass describes me--it's like me reading through sunglasses."

"It describes all of us," said Dad. "When your cousin Payson died last month, we were very upset--and even angry--weren't we?"

A sad look crossed Larissa's face, and she nodded her head.

"We all had questions--we wanted to

know why it happened, right?"

Again, Larissa nodded. She still wondered.

"In this life, we see the things that happen as if we were wearing dark glasses," Dad continued. "Many things are unclear, and we wonder why God allows them to happen. But when we meet Jesus face to face, we won't have questions like that anymore. We'll truly understand that His will is perfect and everything happens according to His plan. For now, we just need to remember that Jesus knows our pain and trust that He's in control and working everything for good."

Larissa took her sunglasses off and looked at them. "I don't understand why God let Payson die," she said. "But I'm glad Jesus knows how we feel and is helping us through it." Richard S. Maffeo

How About You?

Do you find it hard to trust God when you can't see how things are going to end or why certain things happen? Jesus knows how you feel, and He promises to help you through any situation you face. You can trust Him to be with you and work everything for good, even when you don't understand.

Today's Key Verse:

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face. (KJV) (1

Corinthians 13:12)

Today's Key Thought:

Trust Jesus in hard times

<https://www.keysforkids.org/>

Announcements:

- This Evening: Free evening
- Morningside singing has been canceled.
- Wednesday Evening: Prison Service (Annex) 4:15 PM. To go: Ralph, Nathan & Steve – Devotions
- Thursday evening Church Social at 6:30.
- School devotions this week by: Justin Miller

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES ~

Nov. 18, Happy Birthday! Martha Yoder, 1997

Nov. 18, Happy Birthday! Tyler Miller, 1999

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Can Prayer Change God's Mind?

In Malachi 3:6, God said, "I the Lord do not change." The Lord our God has no beginning and no end. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Although we believe these things about God, they are impossible for mere mortals like us to fully understand.

God is unchangeable – but does that mean it is impossible for him to change his mind? I know many of our subscribers firmly believe prayer cannot change God's mind. They believe the Lord our God is so immutable that every minute detail – past, present and future – has already been set and cannot be changed. They may be right. I do not want to get in an argument with anyone over this. However, I have to wonder why we should pray any petition type prayers if there is no chance of God changing his mind.

Allow me to share a couple of short stories from the Bible for you to consider. The first comes from Exodus 32:7-14, and the second comes from Isaiah 38:1-5 (also found in 2 Kings 20:1-6 and 2 Chronicles 32:24-26)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "O Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you

swored by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Some believe God was not serious when he said he was ready to start all over again with just Moses. They may be right – but why would God say it if he did not mean it?

In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord. "Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah: "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life.'" Some believe that Hezekiah's prayer changed Hezekiah – not God's mind. They may be right – but why would God say something he did not mean?

Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Romans 11:34-35 (also found in Isaiah 40:13)

There is no possible way for us to know and understand the mind of the Lord our God. We need to be careful that we don't try to put God in a box that we understand and are comfortable with. When we attempt to put God in such a box, we are trying to limit what God can and cannot do – based on our very limited understanding. In addition to having no beginning and no end, God is all-knowing, all-understanding and all-powerful. God simply will NOT fit in any box you or I try to put him in.

Don't just GO to church; BE the church
Kit Pharo