



Daily Verse and Comment

Revelation 3:17-18

(17) Because you say, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— (18) I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

New King James Version

Jesus points out their blindness, of which the members are blissfully unaware. Their mammon (see [Matthew 6:21-24](#)) fills their minds and keeps them so distracted and comfortable that they do not realize their actual condition or their vacuous relationship with Him. We can easily apply the ringing words of Elijah here, as though the Head of the church is asking His people, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is [God](#), follow Him; but if mammon, follow him. Be hot or be cold; you cannot serve both.”

The blindness Christ speaks of is primarily our doing because He expects us to anoint *our own eyes*. He has not caused this blindness, though He may give us over to it in His chastening. Nor has [Satan](#) caused this blindness. We are responsible for this condition, and we must cooperate with God to turn it around. We must work to clean up our vision and return to God with a singleness of focus. But how?

Getting out of this condition is a mighty challenge by itself, but perhaps a more significant challenge is first discerning *whether* we are blind and thus whether we need to take that well-worn letter to heart. God gives us help here as well. [1 John 2:11](#) says that he who hates his brother has been blinded. This verse proves the connection between commandment-breaking and blindness, including breaking the spirit of the law.

In [II Peter 1:5-9](#), the apostle provides a list of attributes, concluding that if we lack them, we are approaching blindness:

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your [faith](#) virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge [self-control](#), to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly [kindness](#), and to brotherly kindness [love](#). For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord [Jesus Christ](#). *For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness*, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

To reiterate, if we lack faith, there is blindness. If we lack virtue, meaning good character, blindness ensues. If we lack knowledge, self-control, or perseverance, blindness follows. If we lack godliness, brotherly kindness, or love, we are shortsighted, even to blindness. If we do not [see God](#) as clearly as we should, it will show up in these areas and others. Peter's list indicates we are suppressing truth somewhere or in some way resisting God's presence in all our thoughts.

When [Passover](#) approaches, we examine ourselves, which is right and good. But those who are married know that if we were to take stock of our relationship with our spouses only once a year, our marriages would be a shambles. Similarly, the [letter to Laodicea](#) is about a massive relationship problem, to which the members are blind. But if we can glimpse in ourselves a lack of faith, self-control, kindness, love, or other godly traits, we can recognize that our relationship with God is not as strong as it could be.

We can analyze these areas and search for what mammon—what fleshly thing—is interfering with seeing God more clearly. God wants to help us overcome this blindness because He wants to dine with us ([Revelation 3:20](#))—He wants to have such a close relationship. But first, we must choose to seek Him and submit to the truth despite the cost, that our eyes may remain open throughout our long walk to His Kingdom.

— David C. Grabbe

To learn more, see:

[Spiritual Blindness \(Part Three\): Choosing a Curse](#)

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