***The God Who Sees***

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***Introduction:*** We can build our lives on the solid foundation of God Himself.

 A. One of the keys to life is being able to see clearly in our own environment.

 1. In learning how to drive the ability to see ahead and anticipate is crucial.

 2. Men are easily given into overconfidence and thus an inexcusable blindness.
 The pride of life is a powerful tool of Satan. **(Gen 3:4-5; 1 Jn 2:16)**

**Genesis 3:4-5**  4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**1 John 2:16**  For all that *is* in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.

 3. We should be able to see enough to know we need God’s help.

 B. Having the revelation of the God who sees all is a great blessing. **(Heb 4:12-13)**

**Hebrews 4:12-13**  12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

 1. God’s word can open hearts and allow men to see themselves. How can this be?

 2. His word comes from the God who sees and knows every man.

***I. The complete and thorough sight of God***

 A. Men have often questioned if God sees their plight. **(Hab 1:2)**

**Habakkuk 1:2**  O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.

 1. God wants His people to clearly know what He sees. **(Lk 12:7)**

**Luke 12:7**  7 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

 2. The wicked would like to think they can hide from God.

 B. There is no physical place we can go away from God’s sight**. (Psa 139:7-12)**

**Psalm 139:7-12**  7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there.* 9 *If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You.*

 1. We can find ourselves in some isolated and dark places. God is there.

 2. If we take time to look anywhere we are we can know that God is there.
 **(Ps 19:1; 14:1-2)**

**Psalm 19:1**  The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

**Psalm 14:1-2**  The fool has said in his heart, "*There is* no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

 C. There is no place in our hearts where we can flee from God’s sight.
 **(Psa 139:1-5; 33:13-15)**

**Psalm 139:1-5**  O LORD, You have searched me and known *me.* 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

**Psalm 33:13-15**  13 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. 14 From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; 15 He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

 1. When we know that God loves us anyway, then we can willingly open our
 hearts to God.

 2. We can see God’s providence at work in developing, protecting and guiding our
 thoughts and *the life those thoughts direct*. **(Rev 2:18-19)**

**Revelation 2:18-19**  18 " And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ' These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first.

 D. God sees and guides an unseen realm that has direct effects upon the seen world.
 **(Eph 6:12-13)**

**Ephesians 6:12-13**  12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places.* 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

 1. Look at what the Bible teaches about angels and demons. There are many things
 occurring in the unseen realm that impact our lives.

 2. God wants us to know these things and simply trust Him.

 3. Look at one occasion where the two realms were revealed. **(2 Kgs 6:15-17)**

**2 Kings 6:15-17**  15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

 4. God’s word should be sufficient to open our eyes!

 E. God always sees. **(Isa 40:28; Deut 11:12-13)**

**Isaiah 40:28**  28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

**Deuteronomy 11:12-13**  12 "a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God *are* always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. 13 ' And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,

 1. God wants us to know these things about Himself.

 2. This knowledge can break down our pride and give us great strength in times of
 despair. **(Prov 15:3)**

**Proverbs 15:3**  3 The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

***II. How the knowledge of God’s sight changes us***

 A. We see the value of light over darkness.

 1. Our God wants to bless us but we must choose to see. **(Jn 3:19-21)**

**John 3:19-21**  19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

 2. The path to darkness can become permanent. There must be a fight to see.

 3. We can accept the false concept of God the idolater’s did. Consider the terrible
 end of Belshazzar. **(Dan 5:23-25)**

**Daniel 5:23-25**  23 "And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. 24 "Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. 25 " And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

 4. False concepts of God and His nature can cause many to follow Belshazzar.

 5. God’s people will be dedicated to open communication, study and even rebuke.
 **(Acts 17:11; Jn 18:19-20)**

**Acts 17:11**  11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

**John 18:19-20**  19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. 20 Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.

 B. The presence of God will give us *great courage and comfort*. **(1 Pt 3:12-13)**

**1 Peter 3:12-13**  12 For the eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers; But the face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil." 13 And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

 1. We will experience tests in this life. These should draw us closer to God.

 2. We can know God as a rock that will never disappoint us. Our response should
 be “teach me your way!” **(Psa 27:8-11)**

**Psalm 27:8-11**  8 *When You said,* "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." 9 Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. 10 When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me. 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.

 3. We can know that all things will work out to an eternal glory!

 C. We will become more personal in prayer and instant in prayer. **(Phil 4:6)**

**Philippians 4:6**  6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

 1. The greater our knowledge of God becomes the more precious prayer becomes.

 2. Look carefully at what Hezekiah did before he prayed at what looked like a
 hopeless situation. **(2 Kgs 19:14-19)**

**2 Kings 19:14-19**  14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. 15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 16 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. 17 "Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, 18 "and have cast their gods into the fire; for they *were* not gods, but the work of men's hands -- wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. 19 "Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You *are* the LORD God, You alone."

 3. Consider the power of praying to the God of the universe who wishes to act on
 our behalf. **(2 Chron 6:40; 1 Jn 5:14-15)**

**2 Chronicles 6:40**  40 "Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and *let* Your ears *be* attentive to the prayer *made* in this place.

**1 John 5:14-15**  14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

***III. The sight of God can bring us great wisdom***

 A. Wisdom *is a choice*! We find it by always looking to God. **(Psa 123:2)**

**Psalm 123:2**  2 Behold, as the eyes of servants *look* to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes *look* to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.

 1. We take the first step to wisdom when *we know that we know nothing*.

 2. The next step is *reverencing God and His word*. We carefully protect and
 reverently handle this perfect source of wisdom. **(Prov 1:7)**

**Proverbs 1:7**  7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

 3. This attitude is in great contrast to the religious scoffer who believes he can
 outsmart God. **(2 Sam 22:27-30; Isa 29:14-15)**

**2 Samuel 22:27-30**  27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 28 You will save the humble people; But Your eyes *are* on the haughty, *that* You may bring *them* down. 29 "For You *are* my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness. 30 For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.

**Isaiah 29:14-15**  14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hidden." 15 Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, And their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?"

 4. Satan failed miserably in trying to outthink God. **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**

**1 Corinthians 2:7-8**  7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

 B. Wisdom *changes our priorities*. We now view things in light of God’s judgement.

 1. Look at the sad end of the hypocrite who did many things *behind closed doors*.
 Yes, *God does see*! **(Ezk 8:6-13; 2 Chron 16:9)**

**Ezekiel 8:6-13**  6 Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations." 7 So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. 8 Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. 9 And He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there." 10 So I went in and saw, and there -- every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls. 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up. 12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.' " 13 And He said to me, "Turn again, *and* you will see greater abominations that they are doing."

**2 Chronicles 16:9**  9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

 2. Because we serve God we can *live with injustice in this life*. **(1 Sam 24:15-17)**

**1 Samuel 24:14-17**  14 "After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea? 15 "Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand." 16 So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "*Is* this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 Then he said to David: "You *are* more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil.

 C. Wisdom will put a priority on *protecting our consciences*.

 1. We will carefully seek the right teachers. **(2 Cor 11:3-4)**

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4**  3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted -- you may well put up with it!

 2. Why associate and follow those who have the wrong kind of a track record?
 Angry men who plant bitterness will destroy the conscience. **(Titus 1:9-11)**

**Titus 1:9-11**  9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. 10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

 D. Wisdom seeks to *see men as God does*. **(1 Sam 16:7)**

**1 Samuel 16:7**  7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does* not *see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

 1. Good people often have a hard time identifying deceptive people. Some are
 “code talkers.” **(Rom 16:17-18)**

**Romans 16:17-18**  17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

 2. “Simple” or inexperienced people assume that all have honest hearts.

 3. We must be just and merciful and wise! Our Lord tells us how to discern.

 E. Wisdom will *place a priority on our marriage*. **(Mal 2:14)**

**Malachi 2:14**  14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

 1. God knows how we are treating our mate and our children.

 2. What a blessed home when we speak and act with awareness of God!

***Conclusion:*** Do you know the God who sees?