

should live one day at a time and not be consumed with worrying over everything in our lives. When we do this we will get "tunnel vision" on this world and not see the love that God has for all of us in His world, which is Heaven.

**James 4:15-16** tells it like it should be, instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

One should plan ahead, but always hold your plans loosely, always put God's desires at the center of your planning and He will never, never disappoint you. Never!

By Bill Davis

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
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## Perils of Tunnel Vision

Have you ever noticed that while driving down the highway how easily you can get fixed on a certain object or a vehicle and not see the danger that is coming at you? While we may see this one vehicle in front of us, we may not see the other vehicle coming straight at us unless it is brought to our attention.

For example, when I was on the SWAT team at work we used to train daily in the shoot house. We had to go inside this training house to learn to respond to a hostage or crisis situation. As we would go through this house we had to clear all the hallways and the rooms to make sure that this house was in the "safe mode". As the members of this team, we all had our areas of responsibility to protect each other in this team. The first man in had to clear the hall so the team members would not get hurt trying to get through the door. The other team members had to clear each room that they would come into contact with, until they found their mark. Each

member of this team was to clear his area of responsibility; and also be aware of those around him as to their status. The problem would start when a person of the team would get tunnel vision on just one part of the training house as one of the training instructors would pop out of a room unexpectedly and create havoc. You see, when we get tunnel vision we don't see the whole picture around us and we can get hurt by it. In other words, we just see part of the whole picture when we should be looking around us to see the hidden dangers of this world.

As Christians, we can go through this life in our daily lives and not see the dangers of this world that the devil is part of; thus getting hurt and not even see it coming at us. As husbands, we can get "tunnel vision" by focusing too much on the worries of this world with regard to our job, our bank account, our insurance, and the up-keep of our homes and our vehicles. As wives, we can get "tunnel vision" in matters of the finances (budget), and taking care of the family's basic needs such as cooking, laundry, kids in school and all the surprises in our daily lives. As Christians, we need to see past this world, its cares, and all the materialism that we come into contact with. Has our To Do list become so long that we don't have time for God and His

Word? In the busyness of life and caring for our homes and responsibilities here, have we lost sight of our eternal home, Heaven? Yes, God does expect us to fulfill the responsibilities we have in our families, homes, and jobs; but where is our focus? Have you also noticed how we can get caught up into buying more and more? Again, where are our priorities? Do we have "tunnel vision" in the matter of "I want"? Men, are we looking at the bigger picture of the needs of our families; or have we become caught up in acquiring the big boy toys and goodies such as power tools, new vehicles, or play things we think we just have to have? Have you even noticed how we lose sight of heaven, God and His Son Jesus by getting caught up into worldly materialism?

As Christians today, one thing we all need to remember is that when it is all said and done this world will be destroyed with fire in the end time as seen in **2 Peter 3:10-13 and Rev. 20:11-15**. One question I would like to ask myself and each of you reading this bulletin; during this last week where did we put our priorities? Did we let our thoughts and our desires be all about ourselves and what we can get out of this world? Did we try to see how much extra money we can make, not because I needed it, but

because it made my bank account larger and more attractive? Did I allow myself to despair about life as I watched the news on world events, and get bent out of shape over what I saw? Did we devote our time and attention and just dwell on God's Word? Did we give thanks to God for sending His Son, Jesus, to this world to die for our sins? How can Christians today get "tunnel vision" in our society and lose sight of our true reward in heaven?

Let's see some examples in the Bible. One good example is Money or Wealth. **Matthew 6:19-24** Jesus was teaching the people in this parable the perils of trying to attain all the money they could acquire. You see, when a person tries to acquire all the wealth he or she can get they will lose touch with God. Jesus says here to these people we are to have only one master and He is God. Today we live in a very materialistic society where money and material will make a many good people get "tunnel vision" on riches and start to serve their money and wealth. They will lose sight of God when this happens. The strong desire for money and wealth will cause people to lose their commitment to God, and their spiritual home which is in heaven. Remember whatever we store up we will spend a lot of our time and energy trying to make more and strive in ways to keep it. This parable should teach us not

to fall into the wealth or materialistic trap, because the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil as seen in **1 Timothy 6:10**. If the question were asked of you today can you honestly say that God, and not the money is your true master? The answer to that question tells you where your priorities are and which one - God or money - occupies most of your thoughts, your time, and most importantly your efforts in life. Our attitude should be as that we read of in **Philippians 4:4-7**. Another good example of getting "tunnel vision" in this world is by worrying too much about everything in our daily lives. **(Matthew 6:25-34)**

All of us who read this bulletin have had many sleepless nights worrying about the problems in our lives such as illness, money, jobs, and the problems in our society today. When one worries too much about the future or about the problems in our daily lives it can hamper our efforts today in going about our daily lives and in our worshiping God as we should. Worrying too much is more harmful than helpful, such as heart attacks, high blood pressure, and a headache. Worrying too much will show a lack of trust and faith in God on His promise that He always will help us in our daily lives. You see, God does not ignore His children who depend on Him for their everyday substance. As Christians, we