

THE WINDSHIELD FIXATION

The windshield of the automobile is one of those things which operates to our best advantage when we pay it no attention. It is the view of the road ahead and that of our physical surroundings which demand our greatest attention.

It is only when the windshield begins to hinder our view that we turn our attention to it—the seasonal bug swarms begin to splatter in great numbers like some biological kamikaze attack or a stone flung from the rear tire of the dump truck ahead lands a resounding blow to the tempered glass resulting in a spiderweb of instant cracking—then we drop our view from the outside to the windshield.

No one viewing a beautiful sunset through a picture window praises the window because the window only affords us a vantage point and is disregarded from our consciousness in the experience, indeed this is how it ought to be also in the presentation of the gospel.

It should be the desire of every preacher to present himself as only an unobstructed windshield by which his hearers may view the glory of God. Drawing unnecessary attention to himself is defeating the divine purpose of the intended design of preaching.

While it would be quite difficult to drive an automobile without the aid of a windshield—also “how shall they hear without a preacher?” Yet the objective of that preacher is to present the gospel as clearly as possible. As the men who approached Jesus’ disciples exclaimed, “Sirs we would see Jesus,” so should be the desire of the church.

It requires a lot of window cleaner and friction to remove the accumulated grime and bugs from the surface of a windshield in order to make it as transparent as possible to present the occupants a clear view beyond itself. As I wear corrective lenses, I know how a mere fingerprint or simply a tiny piece of lint can cause me to fixate on the lens rather than my handwriting on the pad before me.

As an amateur photographer, I also know how disconcerting it is to see dust particles on the lens when viewing the landscape through it because that obstruction hinders the quality of the picture when taken. Removal of these distractions is vital to a clear and correct view—it is more important, in every way, for God’s ministry to cleanse themselves from all that could cause their hearers to fixate on them rather than the glory of God. Living above reproach is still the correct course for His ministers.

We should also, I feel, still subscribe to the simplicity of the ministry. We live in the age of flamboyancy—the “look at me” generation of the outlandish and “attraction by distraction.” John’s words still warrant relevance to us today, “I must decrease, He must increase.”

Paul's declaration to the church of Corinth emphasizes clearly what should be the desire of every God-called minister, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor. 4:5-7

Presenting Jesus Christ rightly still demands a clear unobstructed view!

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