

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“There’s Only One Place to Look”

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

Where do you look in times of trouble? Where do you look when you are lost and can't seem to find your way through the twists and turns of life? Who do you look to when you need a living example on how to handle your life from a biblical frame of reference? We have found that we can't look to our government. While government is important, when the money is flowing in and from the right places, government that is supposed to be for the people often cuts out the people who they are intended to be for. Then we cannot always look towards our spiritual leadership. Sure, we have lofty expectations as we follow them. And so we should. Their integrity and accountability should be above and beyond reproach. But when we discover that they in many ways are just like we are, we are disappointed, hurt, wounded, and oftentimes driven from the church where we know we need to be and our relationship with Christ then becomes estranged.

When the children of Israel journeyed through their many wanderings they would always look to the Lord. In fact there is a psalm that commemorated their journeys throughout all their generations. “I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:1-2 (NKJV) Now it is important to understand that Israel's help was not in the hills. The hills only served as a traveling focal point to keep them geographically focused. But far beyond the hills their eyes were on the Lord who made heaven and earth. They looked to the only one who could help them during the times in which they lived. We should do no less than the same.

In verse one of chapter 12 the Hebrew writer reveals to us that we have been encompassed or surrounded by a “great cloud” of witnesses. This is in reference to the individuals comprised in what we call the “Hero's Hall of Faith” found in chapter 11 who have gone before us. The trials, tragedies, and troubles that they endured through their walk of faith during the days of the Old Testament are truly something to be admired and perhaps even aspire to. Against all odds, they found a way to keep the faith and endure. But further observation also reveals to us that the writer does not tell us to look to them. Their testimonies serve to inspire and encourage us, however when look for a living, perfect, pure, and holy example we must look to Jesus who is the Author and Finisher of our faith; which is to say that He is the “originator” and “perfecter” of our faith. Everything faith is and will ever be is found complete in Jesus Christ.

We are living in a day and time when people are looking to the government for answers, affirmation, agendas, and lifestyle approval. Just as many look to entertainers and athletes for hope in times of despair and with the desire to hopefully find in them a role model. Now we find ourselves in the midst of a spiritual paradigm shift where the personality of the person in the pulpit often overshadows the proclamation of the word that is being preached. No, we can't look to any of those. Not now. We have to look beyond the fallible, failing, and faulty flesh of man and look to Jesus. Not to glance at Him, or gaze upon Him. But we must keep our eyes firmly fixed and fastened on Jesus. We must look to behold His power, His presence, and His person. We must look to the one who endured the cross for the joy of pleasing the Father. We must look to the one who took upon himself the humiliation and shame of the old rugged cross that we might have the right to be called children of God. We must look to Jesus. If you don't look now, the day will come when we all must look; for we shall see Him as He is. “But we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” I John 3:2b (NKJV)