

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Solar Eclipse



Note: The following article was written in August 2017 right after the last eclipse in this part of the country. At the time, it was published in the local Church newsletter. The thoughts here seem just as appropriate to the recent eclipse, so we decided to include it here.

Last week, there was a solar eclipse across much of the continental United States. It was big news and even big business. Millions of people traveled for miles to get a better look at it. Even those who were not in the path of the best viewing went outside to look at this rare event. All in all, it was quite the spectacle. I began thinking about what lessons we can glean from this event, and I thought I would share some of them with you.

First, we can learn that there are bigger things than our problems. I heard one news reporter say that the eclipse was a good thing for the country because, for a few minutes, we might all stop fighting between political parties and look up. I think a lot of our political problems would go away if we all spent a few minutes every day looking up.

Maybe, we would focus less on looking at our own problems. Maybe, we would stop spending so much time looking at the shortcomings of those around us. Maybe, we would have a better perspective on events around us if we would just take some time each day to look toward heaven.

Second, we can learn that God's creation is wonderfully designed. The reason that an eclipse is so rare is that the moon's orbit around the earth is tilted. That is, the moon does not revolve around the earth in the same plane as the earth revolves around the sun. This means that the moon only blocks out the sun on rare occasions. God thought of everything when He created our universe.

Third, everyone is awed by the majesty of the heavens. Even the

atheists and agnostics wanted to see the wonder and majesty that was on display in the heavens that day.

The Psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God...", **Psa. 19:1**. For a brief time, even those who deny God and His law stood in awe of His glory as declared by the heavens.

Fourth, some opportunities are "once in a lifetime". I put that phrase in quotes because I have seen an eclipse before. It was in February 1979, and I was only thirteen years old. That was the last total eclipse visible anywhere in the continental U.S.

Last week's eclipse was the first total eclipse to be visible across the entire U.S. since June of 1918. The next total eclipse that will be visible over the U.S. will be in April 2024. They are not necessarily once in a lifetime. It all depends on where and when you live.

However, for some, this was the only chance they will ever have to see one in their lifetime. None of us know whether we will be alive in 2024. It pays to take advantage of such opportunities when they are there.

Fifth, we are reminded of the majesty of God. To look at the

eclipse without the proper eye protection could cause permanent damage to your eyes. The sun is simply too bright to look at directly even when being eclipsed by the moon. But God dwells in unapproachable light.

“who alone has immortality, **dwelling in unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.” **I Tim. 6:16 (NKJV)**

God told Moses that no man could see Him and live.

“But He said, “You cannot see My face; for **no man shall see Me, and live.**”” **Exo. 33:20 (NKJV)**

Moses had to put a veil over his face after being on the mountain of God. The Israelites could not look at his face because it shone so brightly.

“But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that **the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance**, which glory was passing away,” **II Cor. 3:7 (NKJV)**

Millions of people stopped what they were doing to gaze upon the glory of our sun. That is nothing compared to the glory of the Father of lights.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and **comes down from the Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” **James 1:17 (NKJV)**

I wonder how many of those millions took time to consider His glory this week. I hope that you did.