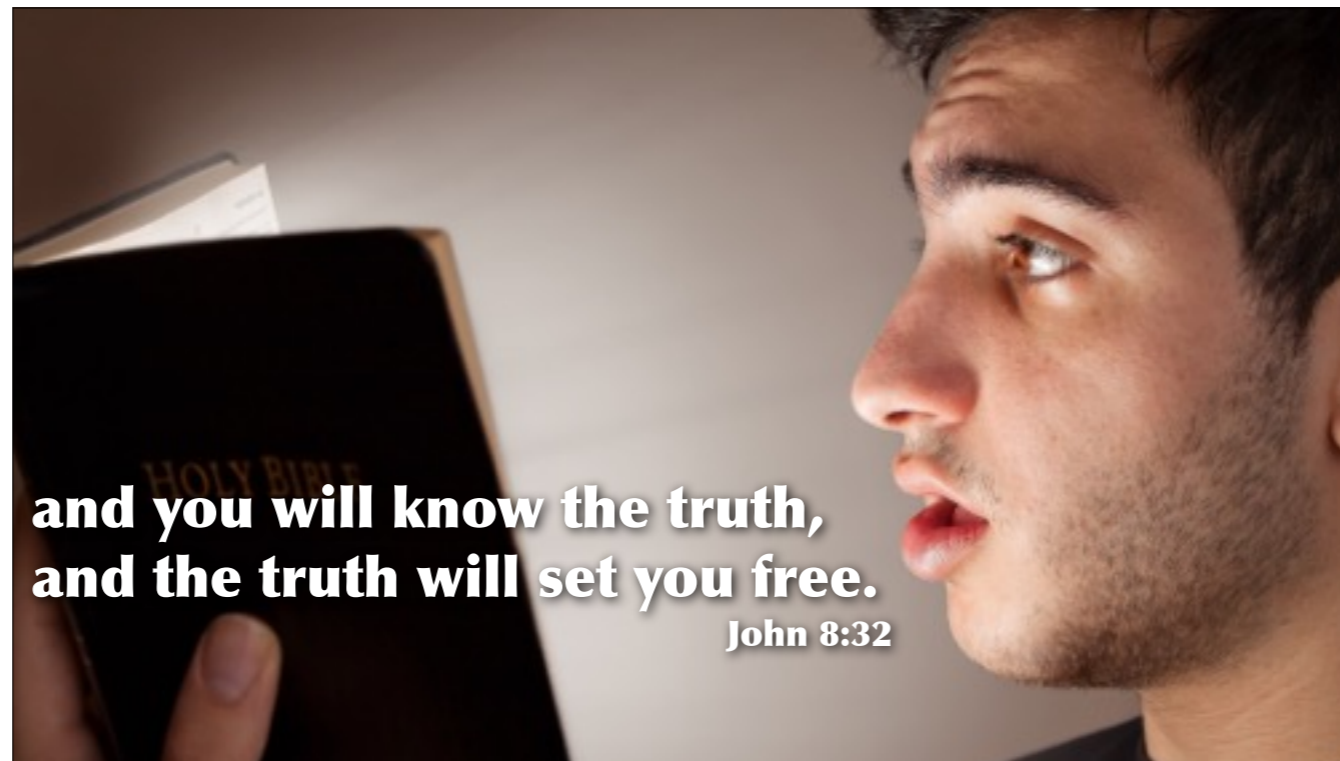


Are We Also Blind?

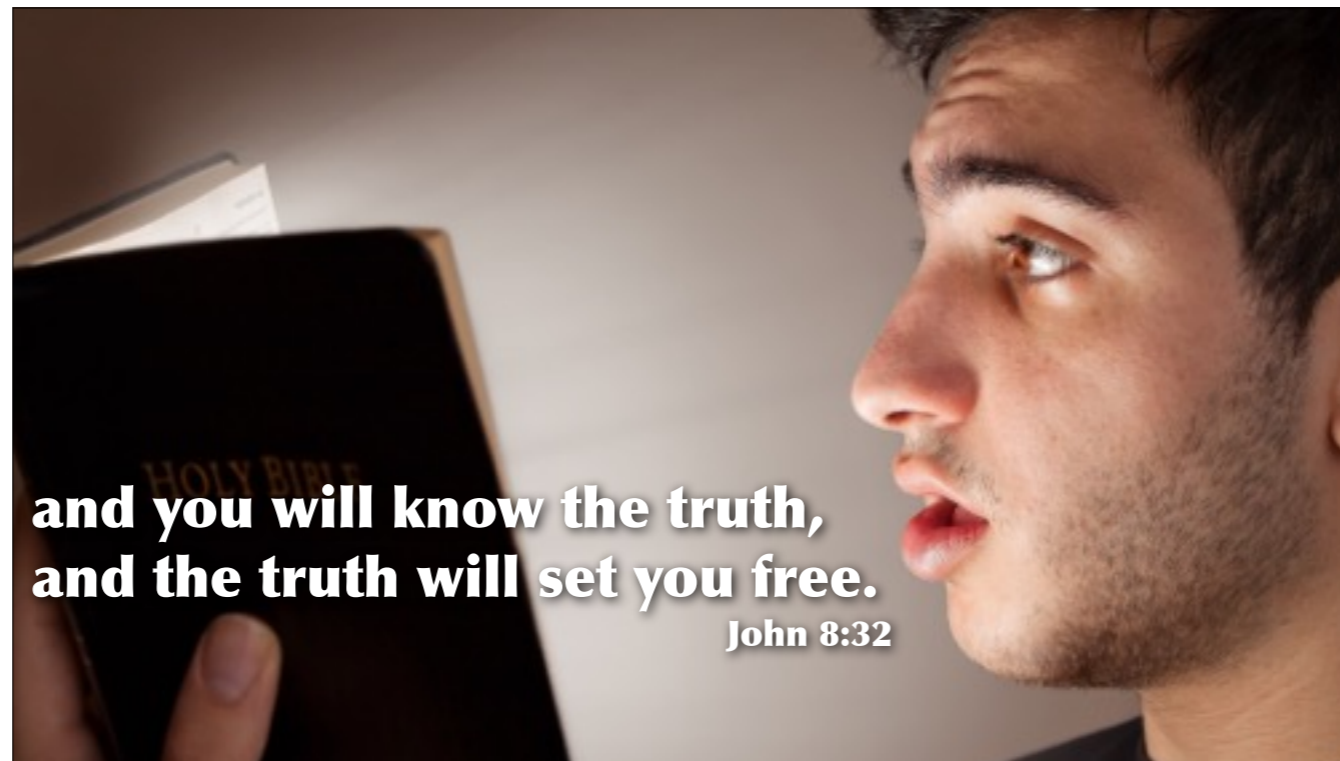


John 9:39-41

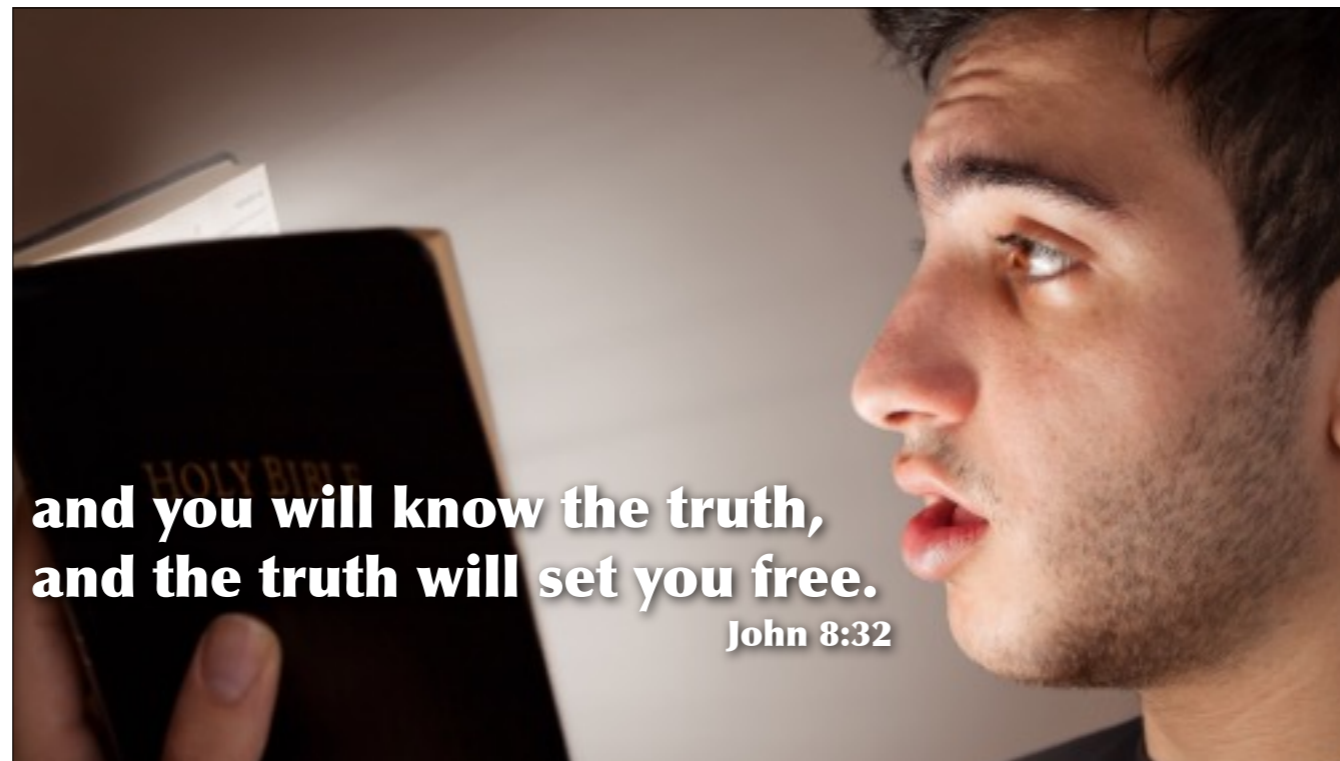
- Are We Also Blind?
- A man born blind is used by disciples to ask theological question.
- Jesus teach disciples and heals blind man.
- Proving the Sign: man really was born blind (neighbors and parents)
- Proving the Christ: Jesus, prophet, from God, Son of Man
- Believe.



- John 8:32: and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
- 2 Peter 1:3: His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,



- Deuteronomy 29:29: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
- Galatians 3:23: Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.



- Colossians 1:25-26: of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, **to make the word of God fully known**, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now **revealed** to his saints.

**For judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and those who see may become blind.**

John 9:39



- John 9:39: Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

For **judgment** I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and those who see may become blind.

John 9:39



- Judgment: a verdict of judgment.
- John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn** (judge) the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

For **judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and those who see may become blind.**

John 9:39



- Jesus is a dividing line: accept him or reject him, no middle ground
 - Accept for who He is (claims to be): not just a man, but God; son of God; messiah, Christ
 - Signs
 - Words
 - Reject Him: He's just a man; just a teacher; just a prophet

**For judgment I came into this world,
that **those who do not see may see**,
and those who see may become blind.**

John 9:39



- that those who do not see may see
 - Obvious allusion to the Blind Man, but Jesus is using this as a spiritual lesson.

**For judgment I came into this world,
that **those who do not see may see**,
and those who see may become blind.**

John 9:39



- Blind beggar was focus of sign: understood Jesus is a prophet, and from God.
- Hears Jesus' teaching, understands He is the Son of God and believes.
- Key is the sign that points to Jesus as the Christ and worthy of our faith.
- "Uneducated" yet understands.

**For judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and those who see may become blind.**

John 9:39



- and those who see may become blind.
 - Obvious allusion to the Pharisees
 - John 9:16: Some of the Pharisees said, “**This man is not from God**, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

For judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and **those who see may become blind.**

John 9:39



- John 9:18: The **Jews did not believe that he had been blind** and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight.
- John 9:22: (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that **if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.**)

**For judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and **those who see may become blind.****

John 9:39



- John 9:24: So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. **We know that this man is a sinner.**”
- John 9:29: We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, **we do not know where he comes from.**”

**For judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and **those who see may become blind.****

John 9:39



- They refused to accept the sign and the meaning of the sign.
 - They think they see
 - They really are blind
 - Blind man argued that this was amazing that they couldn't see: 1) Opened my eyes; 2) God listens to Him; 3) If not from God, could do nothing.

**For judgment I came into this world,
that those who do not see may see,
and **those who see may become blind.****

John 9:39



- See themselves as educated, knowing Law: teachers of others
 - Matthew 15:14: Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” (offended by parable of Jesus)
- Sign demonstrates the ignorance of the Pharisees.
- Blinded by traditions, reason, bias.

“Are we also blind?”

John 9:40



- John 9:40: Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”

**If you were blind, you would have no
guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,'
your guilt remains.**

John 9:41



- John 9:41: Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.
- formerly blind beggar believed - forgiveness of sins!
- “knowing” pharisees rejected Jesus — remain in sin, guilt.

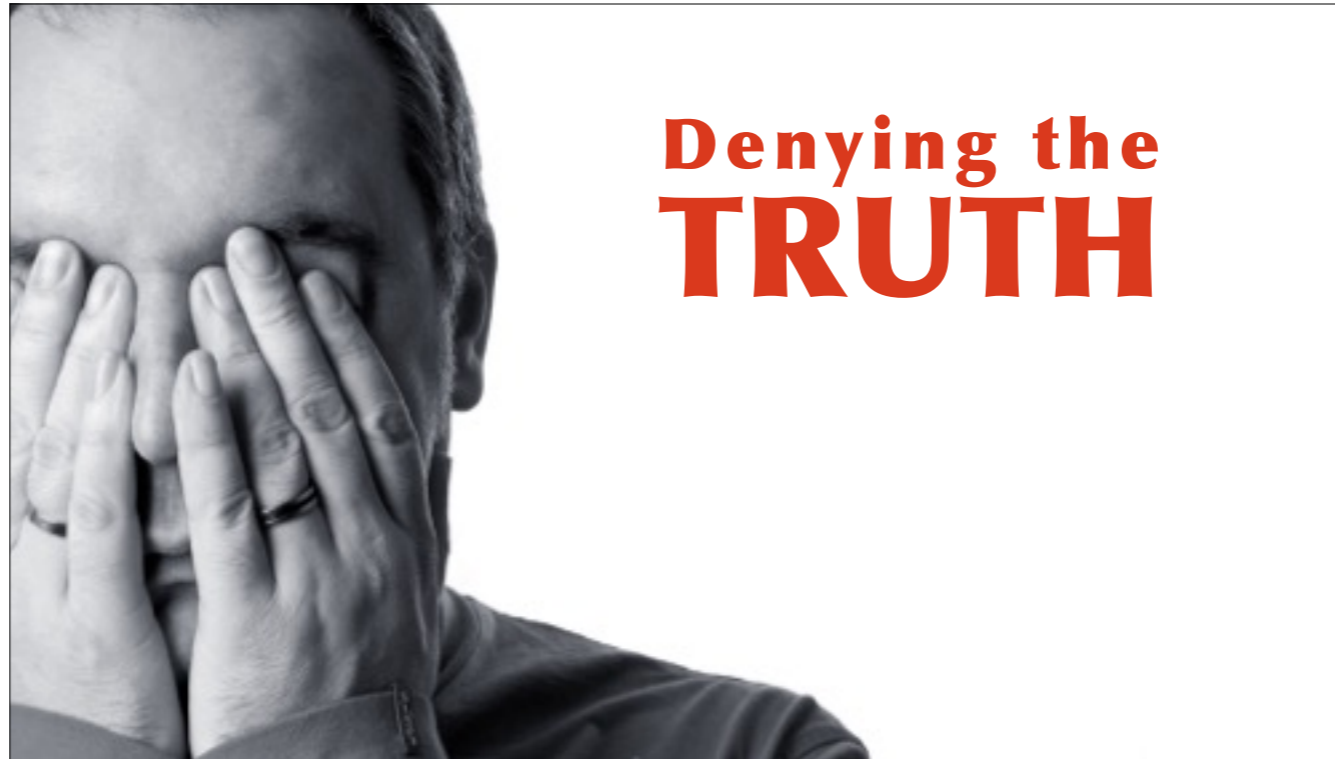


- Are we also blind?
- This is a must ask question for those of us who have been disciples
 - We are more like the Pharisees than the blind beggar.

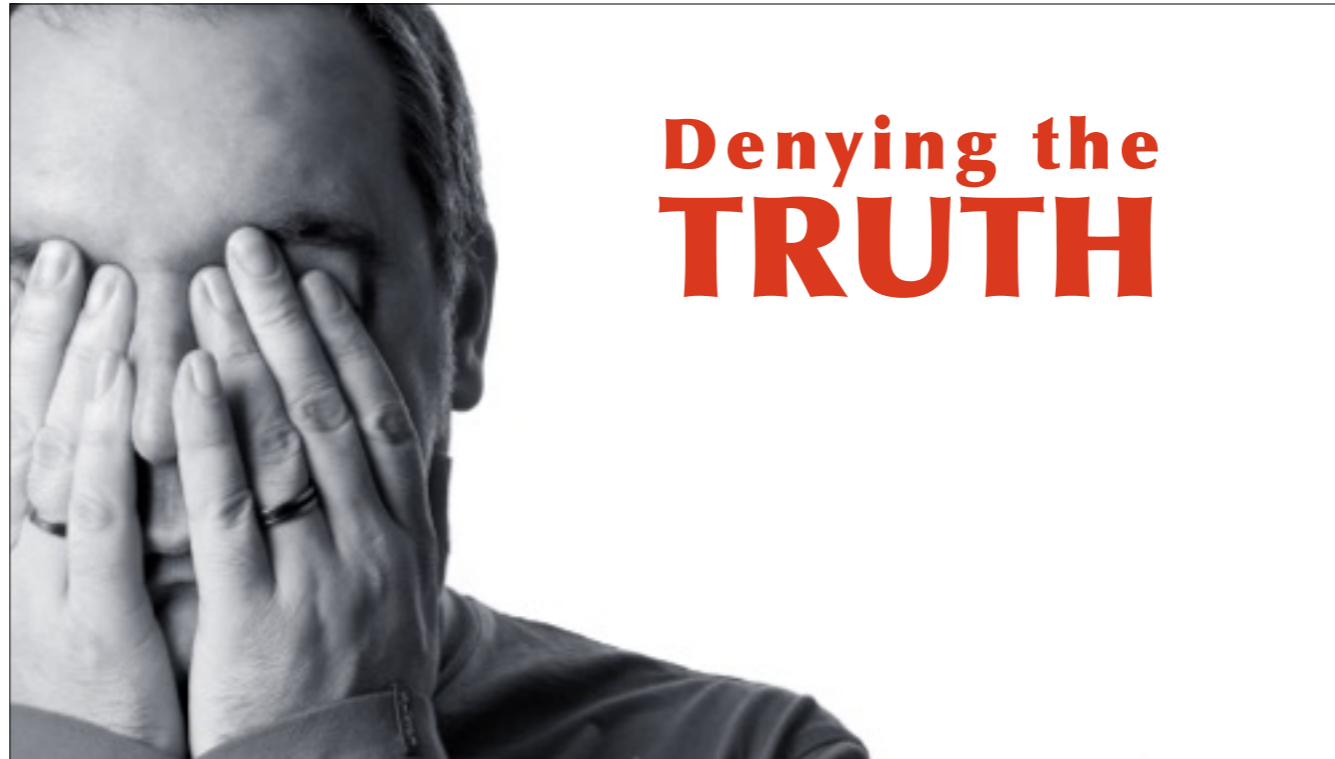
**Are We Also
Blind?**



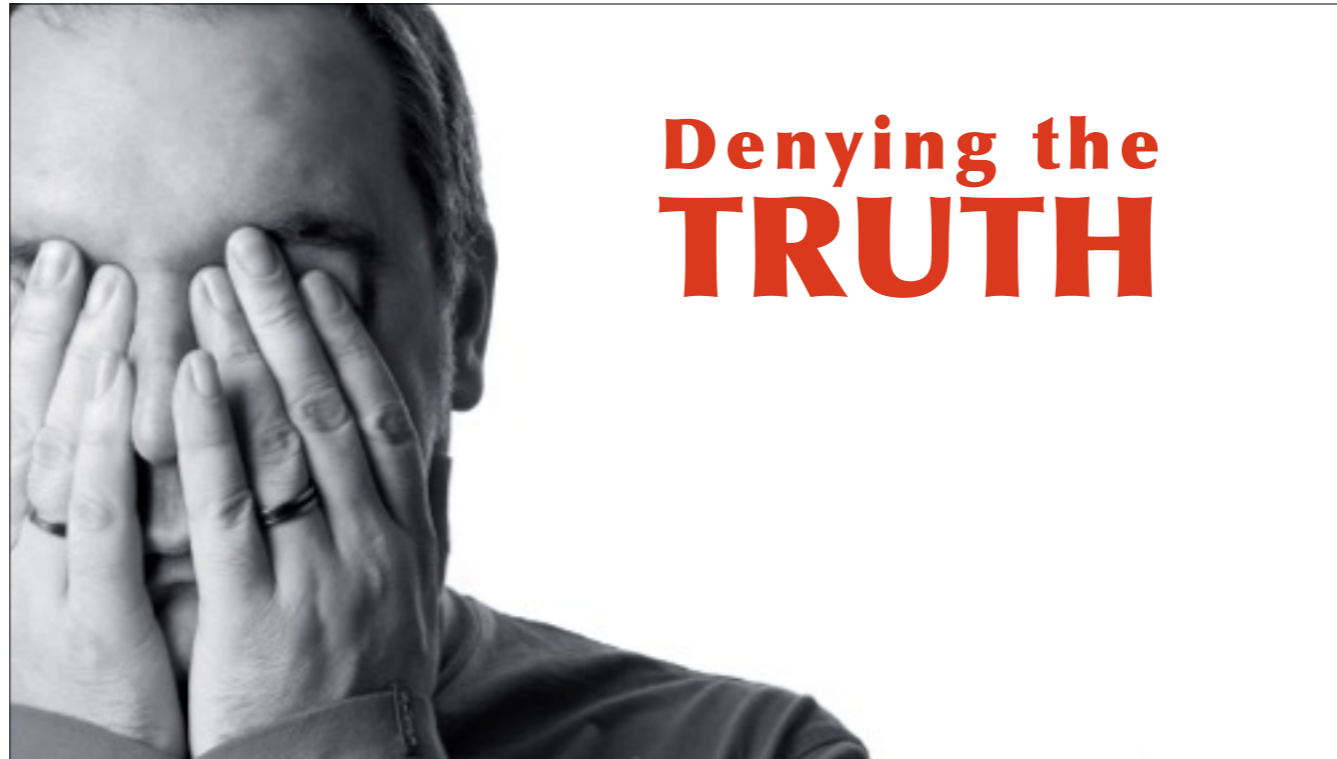
- Four Ways that We can Be Blind
 - Denying the Truth
 - Failing to Grow
 - Failing to Love
 - Trusting in Riches



- Denying the Truth (like Pharisees)
 - Romans 10:2: For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.
 - Romans 10:3: For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.



- We tend to think that we “know”
 - We often have set arguments, proof texts for what we believe and why.
 - We sometimes neglect to reconsider, re-examine the texts to be sure we understand correctly.



- We sometimes deride those who disagree with our conclusions
 - We are dismissive of those who argue differently about our proof texts.
- Must beware that we don't fall into the same trap as the Pharisees: blinded by our own reasoning, bias, traditions



- Failing to Grow
 - 2 Peter 1:8-9: For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.



- Peter reminds us that God has called us to be partakers of the divine nature
- Our faith must be added to... every effort, yours, increasing, more diligent
- If we lack these qualities: Blind
 - Forgotten being cleansed from our sins!
 - We've returned to worldliness.



- Failing to Love
 - 1 John 2:10-11: Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.



- 1 John 3:16-17: By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.



- Trusting in Riches
 - Revelation 3:17-18: For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.



- Pride in our prosperity and self-sufficiency
 - Blind to real condition.
- Materialism, worldliness are the wrong standards
- Rather than trusting in God's grace, power, and sufficiency



- Matthew 13:22: As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Are We Also Blind?



- Four Ways that We can Be Blind
 - Denying the Truth
 - Failing to Grow
 - Failing to Love
 - Trusting in Riches

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



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Are We Also Blind?

John 9:39-41

Synopsis: Jesus, the light of the world, healed a blind man and demonstrated through that sign that He is the Christ. The Pharisees stubbornly refused to understand this truth. Their confident assertion that they see demonstrated their blindness, and provides us the opportunity to evaluate our own ability to see the light. There are four ways in which we can be blind: 1) Denying the Truth; 2) Failing to Grow; 3) Failing to Love; and 4) Trusting in Riches.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."