

CHRIST'S GRACE DISPLAYED

JOHN 9:1-41

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “The glory of God which Jesus will display by changing the man’s physical condition is to be a sign for all time of the glory of God which shines forth in human life whenever He opens the eyes of the spiritually blind. Accordingly, the blind beggar’s physical need is a symbol of all men’s spiritual needs.” R.B.G. Tasker, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: John, p. 123. Rule keeping, obedience to the Law, and ritualistic Sabbath observance practiced by the Pharisees took the place of grace and mercy and therefore became idols. (See the chart “The Pharisees and Sadducees” in Matthew 1.)

IN A FALLEN WORLD where innocent people suffer from physical deformities, the compassionate Creator of all life mercifully gave the blind man sight, new eyes to see, and a new heart to believe and worship. (**John 9:1-12, 35-38, fn 9:2, 3, fn 9:6, Genesis 2:7, fn 2:7, Matthew 13:10-16, fn 13:12, Romans 11:7-10, fn 11:7, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17**) *When did Jesus give you “new eyes” to see?*

ON A SABBATH—Jesus met the Sabbath keeping, rule obeying legalist head on with his grace and the power to give sight. Self-effort and self-improvement in order to reach God blinds people to all that God provides. These obsessions only bring a degree of self-satisfaction, but the filling and leadership of the Holy Spirit brings love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (**John 9:13-16, fn 9:13-17, fn 9:14-16, Galatians 3:1-5, 10-14, fn 3:5[1st], fn 3:11, Galatians 5:22-26, fn 5:22, 23, fn 5:23 Colossians 2:16-23, fn 2:20-23, Hebrews 11:6**) *Why and how could you be filled with the Holy Spirit?*

TO GIVE SPIRITUAL SIGHT—Jesus enables me to enjoy His presence. He is my example for living His life, and His grace gives judgment and conviction of the sin that keeps me on the “throne of my life” instead of the Holy Spirit. It is by His grace that I could see and turn from my sin and be saved, and it is by His grace that I have spiritual sight and the power to continue to turn from self to Him to live out His abundant life. (**John 9:35-41, fn 9:38, fn 9:40, 41, John 10:10, fn 10:10, John 3:19-21, fn 3:19-21, John 1:4, 5, fn 1:5, I John 1:9 fn 1:9[2nd]**) *How can you have spiritual sight?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?