

View From Above

Our perspective on places, people, and events depend on our frame of reference. A view of a green valley from a high overlook is totally different from the view when one is waist-high in grass and underbrush. Our view of people and events depend on the validity of our information and our personal involvement and closeness to those people and events.

All too often we know people who make bad decisions like getting involved in drugs, alcohol, stealing from their employer and friends, extramarital affairs, and an endless list of other things. We lament within and ask ourselves, why? Why do people do things that hurt oneself, their family and friends in the short term and also that have far-reaching personal consequences?

Then there are those who live quite peaceful lives, work from 9-to-5, maintain a stable home, attend worship services on Sunday morning and occasionally on Sunday PM and Wednesday Bible study and put a nominal amount in the collection. Typically, such are not involved in the regular activities of the congregation, don't want to get involved with fellow Christians that are having hardships, and rarely speak to others about the reason for their faith and the Lord's church. We generally consider these as faithful Christians.

Clearly, our perspective is different from the view above and the scriptures tell us so in different ways. We read, *O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps* (Jer. 10:23a). The Christians at Laodicea, from their perspective, thought they were doing just fine but from the Lord's perspective they were worse than those who we readily judge that make a wreck of their lives.

The scriptures allow us to see life and people from God's view. As members of the Lord's body at Karns, it behooves us to look often at ourselves from God's perspective. There are numerous opportunities at Karns to learn God's ways from excellent teachers and preachers. We should never miss a worship service or Bible study unless we are providentially kept away. And we must never be complacent but strive daily to be more like Jesus.

For the elders,
Don Denton