

REAR VIEW MIRROR CHRISTIANS

By Don Krider

God has been speaking to my heart about "REAR VIEW MIRROR CHRISTIANS." When you are driving down a highway and you are constantly looking in the rear view mirror, eventually something is going to happen. You are going to end up in a ditch, you are going to end up in an accident, and you are going to end up discouraged. Right? You are not going to end up getting where you need to go.

Paul said in **Phil 3:13**, "**Forgetting those things which are behind...**" In **Luke 9:62**, Jesus says, "**No man putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.**" So God is not looking for rear view mirror Christians. God is looking for people who are looking forward toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14).

While I was down south in a revival, God showed me three things: a special people with a special purpose and a special God. The world ought to see our special God. The world ought to see a God that loves us, cares about us, and takes our anxieties, our fear, and our doubts as we cast every burden upon Him.

We need to see a God today who is blessing us going out and coming in, blessing us in the city and blessing us in the field. But if we are looking in that rear view mirror, we are remembering how good those times were back there. We are also remembering the people who failed us, or the times we failed. We are remembering the times that we came up short. We are remembering the times that things didn't work out right. We are always thinking "What if I had done this; oh, if I had just done this; or, what if I had done that in a different way."

My friends, you can't change it; it's all gone. Just unscrew that rear view mirror, spiritually, throw it in the garbage can, and put some dark windows in there so you can only see straight ahead. Put the metal to the metal and go for God!

Let's look at Isaiah 43. He's dealt with Israel. He's showed them that they were a chosen people but they continually murmured, complained, grumbled and griped, so God was going to bring forth a new people.

Isaiah 43:18 "Remember ye not the former things..."

Underline that. How many can honestly say, "I'm bugged by what I didn't do, thinking that if I had done different, I wouldn't be where I am today." No, you are here today and this is where you are going to start from. It doesn't make any difference how you got here, it doesn't make any difference whether you fell down a staircase to get here, it doesn't make any difference whether somebody beat you up and you got here; it's where you start from that counts. We are going to start here. There is no yesterday, there is no afternoon, there is no morning. The only time we have is right now and God is saying to forget the former things.

Look at this now: *Isaiah 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.*

Don't try to bring back the old movement of God. Don't say, "If we could just bring back the old revival times, or if we could just bring back the good old days." Those good old days are nothing to be compared with the goodness of God today. Those were times, those were things, those were their

moments, but now God is going to do something greater than we have ever seen. God is going to move in such a miraculous powerful way, my friends, that men and women are going to be drawn by the Spirit of God to you and me, for us to tell the truth and to tell the story and to share the goodness. Take the testimony out to the street, take it to your friends, take it to your neighbors, take it to people and begin to share with them the good things God is doing today.

Hebrews 9:11 *"Jesus Christ became the high priest of good things to come."*

You can't compare what happened yesterday with now:

Isaiah 43:19 *Behold I will do a new thing; ...*

Not only is He talking here about bringing forth the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the beginning of this new thing, but also He's saying, "Behold, I'm going to do a new thing." He's talking about bringing forth a new people, but for that new thing to benefit you, you have to get the rear view mirror screwed out, thrown into the garbage can; get your eyes straight ahead and begin to let God bless you.

Isaiah 43:18-19 *...neither consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth...*

Watch out, saints; God wants a people who are springing forth. Out of their bellies are flowing rivers of living water; salvation springing up within us. A God of abundance doing exceedingly abundantly above all that we can think or ask of Him, according to the power that worketh in us. We see Jesus Christ springing forth out of the root of Jesse. We see that morning star springing forth. You don't see it dying down, you don't see it falling down, you don't see it coming to nothing; you see it springing forth and producing.

God wants a springing-forth people, but if I am looking in the rear view mirror and I hit a pole, I'm going to hit my head. I am going to become discouraged. If I had been looking ahead I wouldn't have been by that pole. We are our own problem; it isn't our husbands, wives, preachers, deacons, or the church. My problem is that I have too much rear view mirror still hanging on and I am trying to get things to move the way it used to move. It isn't going to move that way any more. God is doing a new thing and it's going to spring forth when we are not even looking for it. It's going to happen and I want to be ready for this new movement of God.

It's not going to happen to those that are looking in the rear view mirror and longing for the good old days. The Israelites said, "Why didn't you leave us in Egypt? Weren't there enough graves over there to bury us?" They were dead-minded; never could get them out of dead-mindedness. Christians, we have to quit thinking dead-minded thoughts. We need to think life, we need to speak life, we need to believe in our heart - LIFE!

"Why, don't you take us back to Egypt? I remember how good the old leeks and garlic were. I didn't like them much then but I'd sure like to have some now." God sends forth manna from heaven, and they start complaining. God sends forth quail for them; they get sick of it. Do you know why? Because they are still looking back to a time they had all figured out. "Even though I am in slavery, I can handle that because I have it all figured out."

Walking in the spirit you never can have it figured out because it's a new thing every day. It springs forth every morning. It just comes bubbling up, and there is something new and wonderful and exciting about everything.

Isaiah 43:18 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old, (19) Behold I will do a new thing; now shall it spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

He said, "I'm the Lord thy God that supplieth all thy needs." Even when you are in the midst of a dry place, don't look at the desert; begin to look to Him and let that river begin to spring forth in the midst of the desert. Let that joy, let that strength, let that peace, let that river of life begin to bubble up out of you. "In the midst of that desert..." He said, "...shall you not know it?" He expected the church to experience it. He expected the church to see new things. He expected the church not to walk according to the law or the seeing of the sight. He expected the church to walk by faith.

The Israelites couldn't walk by faith; they were too busy looking at the rear view mirror. It is hard to go anywhere looking backwards unless you intend to back up. God said, "I take no pleasure in those that back up." God is expecting the Christian to move right on, every day to be a new day, every day to spring forth with joy and quit talking about dry places. That is where God makes the rivers flow the best. That's where God brings forth the streams that make glad the city of God (Psalms 46:4). That's the place where the river of life really flows and your neighbors can see it. You are drinking there at the river and you are coming up with joy and peace and righteousness, you're coming up with a good report and they are looking at you and watching what river you are drinking out of.

When Christians talk about feeling so dry, they are looking in the rear view mirror. God says, "Look right on. Neither look to the left nor to the right. I want to spring forth in your life like I have never sprung forth. I want to touch your life like I have never touched your life. I am going to restore. Forget about what you have lost, forget about who has hurt you, forget about your excuses for not serving Me. Forget about all of that stuff. I am going to do a new work."

Look at this, now:

Isaiah 43:20 The beast of the field shall honor me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Underline the words "my chosen" here because **I Peter 2:9** says **"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people that you should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."**

Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth My praise.

When were we chosen? Before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4). God had a special people in His mind; He had a special purpose because He is a special God. He said, "I don't care what the world does, I have formed for Myself a people and those people will be the sanctified. They will be

those that are set apart. They will be those that are holy. They will be those that will know Me and I will know them, and I will provide rivers for them in the desert. I will make a way for them in the wilderness. Nothing will stop them, nothing will cause famine, nothing will bring desolation to them. Why? Because they are walking on the highway of holiness and they are looking unto the Lord their God because I have formed them."

I am not an accidental Christian; there aren't any. God called you. One day you figured out that you were lost and didn't know what to do about it. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6.) In Eph. 1: 4, He said, "Before the foundation of the world I chose you." There are no "Johnny-Come-Lately" Christians. Somebody said, "I have been saved a long time." Well, me too, from before the foundation of the world. I just realized it awhile back. The work was finished a long time ago. I just got enlightened to it and then I began to say, "Hey, I might as well enjoy it."

We have to unscrew those mirrors and not look backwards. Get your eyes on the prize of the mark of the high calling (Phil 3:14). Let those streams bubble up. Let the way be made by the Lord Himself. Why? Because He's formed you, you are the chosen people. He chose you in Christ; you didn't choose God. The scriptures very definitely tell that we didn't choose Him, He chose us. And while we were yet dead in our sins and trespasses, He died for us.

Saints, we often talk about how wonderful, great, and mighty He is, but you also need to begin to realize what you are in Christ; what He made you in Him. He made you to enjoy Him. He made you just like Him. He made you to be an heir, and heir of God and a joint heir with Christ Jesus. He made you to walk in fellowship with Him. He made you to live in an overcoming victory. He made you to always triumph in Christ Jesus. He made you to be above and not beneath. He made you to be blessed in the city and blessed in the field. He made you to be an overcomer for His name's sake. He chose us to unscrew the rear view mirror.

The word of God doesn't say to look back and live; it says to look unto God and live. It isn't what God was. GOD IS "I AM." HE NEVER CHANGED. HE NEVER GETS WEAKER. HE NEVER GETS STRONGER. HE REMAINS THE SAME. HE IS THE "I AM."

Don't despise the way God made you. One day God will pop off this old shell and out will come somebody looking just like Jesus. ***"We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2), and as He is so are we in this present world (1 John 4:17)."*** We have to get rid of that rear view mirror and get our eyes right on God and say, "Hallelujah, I've been born for the Lord. The Lord chose me from before the foundation of the world. I have a right to shout. I have a right to sing. I have a right to praise God. I have a right to drink of those rivers of living water. I have a right to enjoy the streams that are flowing that make me glad!"

"Well, Brother Krider, you have to realize that if we could just bring the good old days back." I lived back there, I shouted back there. I was as hard headed as the rest of them back there and I want to tell you something: it's better today than it was then because there is less of me and more of Him. I am closer home than I was then. His return is closer now than it was then. You ought to shout the

victory because God chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world, and He formed you for Himself

Look at this again:

Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed for Myself, they shall show forth my praise.

1 Pet 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

That is your purpose in life: showing forth the praise of God. Somebody said that we ought to pray for souls; I said, "No, we ought to pray for laborers, the souls are already there." Jesus said, "I'll make you fishers of men..." They are already out there; the harvest is white unto harvest. He said, ***"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send labourers into His harvest"*** (Matt 9:37-38).

If we get some workers who have unscrewed the rear view mirror, and when they see that plow all they can look at is "right on," do you know what they are going to see? They are going to see the Lord high and lifted up. They are going to see the glory of God, no matter what kind of a situation they are in.

If you have unscrewed your rear view mirror, it may be dry for everybody else but it will be wet for you. It may be a place where people are thirsty but you will be drinking until you are satisfied. It will be a place where the blessing of God is real. Why? Because God said, "I have formed you for Myself and your purpose is to show forth My praises." Hallelujah! That's all I have to do. I just have to tell people of how He saved me, how He brought me through, how He gave me victory, how He keeps me, how every day He delivers me from the power of darkness. I just have to praise Him!

We are a special people. We have a special purpose because we have a special God. It's said about the Philistines that their God is not our God. Our God is a rock. He is solid! You can jump up and down, you can shout the victory, you can run, but I want to tell you something: that rock is solid. It won't move one inch, it won't move a micro inch, it won't move anywhere. It is solid and that rock is growing into a mighty mountain and one of these days a revelation is going to come. God is going to pull back the curtain and that mountain shall fill the whole earth (Daniel 2:35).

Special people, special purpose, because we serve a special God. God said, "Unscrew the rear view mirrors - that's where you remember who hurt you. That's where you remember how you failed. That's where you remember all the bad stuff. That's where you remember the good stuff that gets you messed up, trying to get today to be like yesterday."

God said, "I am going to do a new thing; shall you not know it. Will I not reveal it to you? Will it not spring forth? Will I not cause it to come to pass? Who am I going to do this for? Am I going to do it for the world? No! I am going to do it for a special people, a people that I formed, a people that I have chosen."

Not for the world! It's not for the religious group; it's for those who are born and washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. It's for those whom He chose before the foundation of the world, and in His heart and in His mind you already existed. God already had a body formed for you. That's exactly what Jesus said, wasn't it.

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

God chose me and prepared a body for me. Nobody in their right mind would have chosen me for the work God has for me, but God wanted to make a deposit in this body and He said, "It will no longer be a garbage collection depot; it's going to be My temple. And son, you existed in My heart before that body was ever made and I put you in there."

God didn't just think up this plan. God didn't just all of a sudden say, "Wow, I have a good plan." No, before the worlds were, before the foundations were laid, He knew all of us. We know one another after the flesh; that's our big mistake.

2 Cor. 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. (17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I am a brand new creature in Christ Jesus; the old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new. As long as I am looking at that rear view mirror I am seeing the old things and I won't let them pass away. I go out and try to revive them, the "good old days." We have a lot of Christians out there in the garlic and leek patch, out in the garbage dump of yesterday trying to dig something up to make it work. You don't have to reinvent this every day; this plan worked the day it was spoken into existence. This plan worked the moment God said it would work.

This body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, but inside of this there is one whom God has chosen before the foundation of the world; and as long as I have to live in this house He will make provision for it. He will never let me be ashamed because I have put my trust in the Lord. I didn't put my trust in the bank, didn't put my trust in the finance company; I put my trust in the Lord! When I need something, all I have to do is go to Him and ask and believe, receive it, and get up and shout the victory, and go on for Jesus. I don't have any sad stories to tell.

In I John 2:12-14 John lists three kinds of people. He said there are children, there are young men, and there are fathers. But he said about the fathers that they are the ones who have known Him that is from the beginning. This does not mean from the beginning of the day they gave their life to Jesus. This means a full revelation of Jesus Christ; knowing Him as Alpha and Omega, the first and the last; realizing that God has never been out of control.

God has never been out of control and I want to tell you that His kingdom is not even threatened. Not one angel is shaken, worrying about the darkness. Not one angel is worried about Satan. Col.

1:13 says He hath delivered us out of the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. We should not be worried either.

God is saying to the church, "Unscrew the rear view mirror; you are a special people. You have a special purpose because you serve a special God." That is why it doesn't make any difference whether you are male or female (Gal 3:28), because what is inside is like Jesus.

Isn't it amazing how religious people get so messed up in their heads? Matt 22:23-33 gives us the account of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, coming to Jesus. They told Him about this woman whose husband died. He had seven brothers and through the years she was married to each brother, and they all died, but none of them brought forth seed. The Sadducees wanted to know whose wife she would be in the resurrection (which they don't believe in). Jesus said, "You do greatly err not knowing the scriptures or the power of God, for in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

God is telling us in this study that we need to stop feeling sorry for ourselves because we are short, fat, ugly, tall, skinny, not good looking; we don't look like we want to look. Forget what you look like in the flesh; that thing is deteriorating every day. You don't know what you look like; you look like Jesus. **2 Cor. 5:1-4** gives us the account of Paul saying:

2 Cor. 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: (3) If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. (4) For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

We try to make the flesh work better; try to get it to last a long time. We say we want to go to heaven but nobody wants to die to get there. God is saying, "Listen, I want you to quit looking backwards, quit longing for the good old days, the good old times, the good old things. I want you to forget who hurt you, forget who didn't forgive you, forget what they have done to you, but press on and begin to look at the prize of the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Look at yourself: you are a holy people, you are a chosen generation, you are the people I formed for myself before the foundation of the world, and I am going to spring forth a new thing."

The blessing of the Lord is new every day, isn't it? How come we are not walking around blessed every day? How come we are still talking about the old blessing, looking in the rear view mirror? "Oh yes, I can remember when God blessed me. I can't remember exactly how long ago it was, but I believe it was around 1906. He blessed me with the baptism of the Holy Ghost; I spoke in tongues and shouted, and I danced. You should have seen me dance." "Did you dance today"? "No, but I can remember when God blessed me back yonder."

We have people like that all over the place. "I remember how good God used to be. I can remember how His spirit used to fall on those old meetings." That isn't going to do me a bit of good today. If

you had a drink of water six years ago, you are liable to be dried up and dead by now. God said, "You have to drink every day, you have to eat every day, you have to sustain life every day." That water was good six years ago but how about a new blessing right now. How about believing God to bless me, to touch my life and minister to me, because He formed me and He made me for His own good pleasure.

We are going to spring forth, and they'll all know it. God is saying to us, "Unscrew the rear view mirror; throw it in the garbage can. The only way you need to look is right on. Don't look to the left, don't look to the right, look right on." I thank God that I serve a God of "not used to be's." I want a God I can feel, I want a God I can touch, I want a God that can be touched by the feeling of my infirmities. I want a God who knows what I am crying about.

"Now, Brother Krider, you have to be real careful preaching like this. You are liable to incite a riot." I hope so. I just love to see God's people stand up and say "I believe that," and then move on out with Him. Think about this: God formed you for Himself. Say it - **GOD FORMED ME FOR HIMSELF. HE CHOSE ME IN CHRIST FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.**

It will bring health in your body, it will bring strength into you, it will give you soundness of mind when you begin to believe you are living where the "I AM" lives. You begin to believe that He is a God that wants to bless you and all He wants you to do is turn around and show forth His praises. That's all He wants. You don't have to go to college to do that. You can be illiterate and do that. You can be almost stupid and do that. I don't put any premium on stupidity, but I am telling you that you don't have to be able to know anything except that God chose you.

God formed me but He didn't do it for the world. He did it for Himself because He loves me and He likes me and He cares about me. It's no honor to Him that I go around begging all the time. It's no real glory to God if I go around and say, "I don't know what happened; I feel so forsaken." David said, "I was young and now I am old, but there is one thing I have learned, maybe only one thing I have ever learned in my whole lifetime, but this one thing I have learned - I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed out begging for bread" (Psalm 37:25).

You don't have a God that used to be, you don't even have a God that will be. **YOU HAVE A GOD THAT IS.** When you get up in the morning you will have the God that is. When you get up a year from now, if the Lord carries, you will have **THE GOD THAT IS.** If you haven't enjoyed the year that is coming up, don't blame the preacher. "What we need is better preaching." No, what we need is better believing.

I reflect on God, did you know that? My testimony reflects on what kind of God I serve. The way I act can reflect on the kind of God that I serve. I want the world to know that He has made a way for me in the wilderness, that He has brought waters in the desert. Jackrabbits may die of thirst, the rhinoceros may die of thirst, but I won't because I live in the river that He made. I swim in the river that Ezekiel describes in Ezekiel 47:5.

Do you feel like this is for you? Do you want to unscrew the rear view mirror? Now every time you tend to look in that and remember how good it used to be, say "I don't have a rear view mirror anymore."

Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank you that we can enjoy Your presence. I believe it brings honor to you to have a joyful people. Lord, even in the midst of trial, in the midst of testing, the midst of all that is going on, there is a place prepared for each one of us, that the Kingdom of God exists: the righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

You have delivered us out of the power of darkness, translated us into the Kingdom of Your dear Son, and through death You destroyed him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. God, you brought us into a place where there ought to be abundant joy, an abundant peace, and abundant excitement. Lord, you brought us into Your presence. You created us for Your good pleasure. You chose us in Christ from before the foundation of the world and You formed us for Yourself.

We are that new thing; we are that new people. We are that people who had no God before, but Oh God, You are our God and we are Your people according to Your word. You have chosen us. Lord, we are exactly what You made us to be. Help us now to enjoy the rest of the journey.

Help us to unscrew all the rear view mirrors, throw them in the garbage can, paint the windows on the sides black so we can't see out the side. God, if need be, let us be like an old horse; put blinders on us so that we can only look forward. Father, until all we can see is the prize of the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. If Paul and Silas could rejoice in the midnight hour in prison, God, then certainly we can rejoice. We can praise you, we can sing, we can magnify you in Jesus' precious name. Amen!