

Who can and who cannot see?

### **In the movies they had sunglasses so that they could know!**

As a wrestling fan (leave me alone), I was always intrigued by wrestlers that “crossed over” into the world of movie making. In truth, professional wrestling *is* movie-making, but some pros are able to make the change into more mainstream movies; some, not so much.

One old time wrestler, Roderick George Toombs, known as “Rowdy Roddy Piper”, starred in a movie called “They Live”. In that movie, the world had been invaded by space aliens, but no one knew it. The space aliens had so co-opted every aspect of the culture, that what had *become* “normal”, was actually all the things that were being used to *undo* “normal”, replacing traditional cultural normal with a “new normal”.

However, “underneath” mainstream culture, were those who knew the truth that the “new normal” had come from space aliens, and that the space aliens were actually undoing what humanity had held dear since its beginning, those things that kept it vital and thriving.

The *resistance* had developed a pair of sunglasses which, when worn by a human, would reveal all the “new normal” subliminal messages that the space aliens were teaching the world's population. These messages were disguised as ordinary advertising and such, but were actually harmful, subliminal messages, designed to undermine humanity so that it could then easily be conquered! The glasses also allowed one to recognize which “humans” were actually space aliens themselves. Without the sunglasses, the space aliens looked like everyone else, disguised as humans. Those who possessed the sunglasses, who attempted to distribute and/or speak of the reality that the sunglasses revealed, had to be silenced. Killing was the preferred method.

### **With that story in mind,**

I draw your attention to a story from the Scriptures, from the book of Acts.

There was a man who was born lame “from his mother's womb”, meaning, he was lame for all of his life. Now grown yet unable to support himself in any conventional fashion, he had friends or relatives carry him to one of the gates (doors) of the Jewish Temple, and lay him there to beg.

Two of Jesus' disciples saw him, perhaps but probably not for the first time. Surely, the man had become somewhat of an ignorable “fixture” at the gate, merely another beggar. But on one particular day, that beggar asked for alms of Jesus' two fellows. Upon doing so, one of them, Peter, looked intently, fixed his gaze, fastened his eyes, looked straight at him<sup>1</sup> (something not normally done with beggars, even when giving them something), and *said* something to him *rather* than giving him money. In fact, Peter told the man he didn't even have any money! Rather, he offered the man healing... and the man received it. Understandably, as the man began “*walking and leaping and praising God*”<sup>2</sup>, he attracted a good deal of

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1 NKJV, NIV, ESV, ASV

2 Acts 3:8

attention in the Temple! After all, he'd been being laid there for years, unable to support himself, either physically or economically.

The story tells us that Jesus' disciples got into trouble for healing that man. They'd used the opportunity of the healing in the Temple, to tell/reveal the Truth about Jesus, in whose name the man had just been healed. They gave God the glory for the healing, and spoke about the fact that the One responsible for the healing was Jesus, whom the Jewish leaders had just killed.<sup>3</sup>

The leaders of Judaism were about to be found out. They'd just killed the Lord of Glory, and even though He was "gone", His name, His words and His power were still there, and still working God-glorifying miracles!

The position and power of the Jewish leaders was being threatened; not deliberately, but most assuredly.

When discussing what to do about these "threatening" fellows of Jesus, whom were working miracles in Jesus' name, preaching the Resurrection of the dead in His name, and declaring Jesus as the fulfillment and *entirety* of Judaism itself, they said amongst themselves "*What shall we do to these men? For indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it*"<sup>4</sup>.

**Hmm...**

After this event, Judaism continued to lie about Jesus, suppress the truth of the resurrection of Jesus, persecute followers of Jesus, lie about Jesus' fulfillment of Hebrew prophecy, and lie about the fact that Jesus, Messiah, was indeed the *entirety* of Judaism. The lie persists to this day.

In spite of the fact that the miracle in this story was "*notable*", and in spite of the fact that it "[had] *been done through them*", and despite the fact that it was "*evident to all*", and the fact that they "[could] *not deny it*", they got by with the lie: again, to this day.

The people, the majority of whom wanted the truth - ostensibly - were lied to; and the liars got by with it. Only a remnant continuing to tell the Truth to a remnant whose eyes had been opened to the Truth, were telling it to each other and glorying in it while wondering why the majority of people who *professed to "wanting to know the truth"*, ignored/denied/contradicted/disbelieved the actual truth... which by the way, *admittedly*, Could Not Be Denied!

Now, let's talk about today, with regard to who can and who cannot see ...

**As in the spiritual, so in the natural.**

We who know the Truth, not merely about Acts chapters 3 and 4, but about what is happening in our culture, are *glorying in the Truth* of what's happening (for Truth is glorious in and of itself), sharing with others who actually know what's happening, all while wondering why the majority of people who

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3 John 19:10,11

4 Acts 4:16

profess *wanting to know the truth*, ignore, deny, contradict and disbelieve the truth, which *Cannot Be Denied*, by the way.

**How is this possible?!** (*stay with me now...*)

In an *utterly secular* sense (as if there is such a thing), it is possible because today, mid-February 2021 in American culture, the following aspects of our culture, believing that there *are* things utterly secular, have been co-opted by a lying, secular narrative (more than one, actually), which is not secular at all...

- the mainstream media outlets,
- the social networking world,
- the entire world of secondary and even primary education,
- the advertising industry,
- the entertainment industry,
- the American Judiciary system from the Supreme Court to the lowest courts,
- the Congress of the United States – both houses, and
- the executive branch.

These entities, convinced and convincing others that there *are* things utterly secular, are “determining truth” - secular truths all - for the culture in which they exist, as if they themselves are the arbiters of truth.

For those of us whom would apply spiritual truths to issues at hand, we are told to “stay in our lane”.

**Sunglasses anyone?**

In this regard, I will remind you of a fact that you will no doubt affirm, though rarely think of on your own, that *There Is Nothing Secular*. Human existence is a sacred thing, period, end of discussion. We are made in God's Image, and we are living this physical life in God's Creation as His image bearers.

An interesting verse of Scripture that articulates this is found in the book of Ezekiel. (bold print Scriptures, parentheses mine)

**You are My flock** (*His*, made by Him).

**The flock of My pasture** (living as *His* Creatures on/in *His* Creation).

**You, men. I, God, says Yahweh Elohim** (declares *I am that I am*). EZ 34:31

The distinctions between the temporal and the eternal, between the physical and the spiritual, between the sacred and the secular, are all false dichotomies.

Regarding the human Creature itself, whether one calls one's self *dichotomous* (body and soul) or

*trichotomous* (body, soul and spirit), know this... the human creature is a singularity: an embodied soul: a soulish body: a oneness: inseparable.

A body without a soul is a monster.

A soul without a body is a monster.

There is nothing secular. As such, All Truth Is God's Truth, period, end of discussion.

The Truth that God allows us to see about what is happening in our world, is *The Truth*.

In an interesting irony, in our movie story, the sunglasses, rather than blocking the light (of truth) enabled one to see the light of truth.

In our Bible story and in our real 21<sup>st</sup> century American story, we have quite the opposite. We need the "vision restrictors" removed!

*But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*<sup>5</sup>

But take heart, Loved Ones. We live, not only in the hope of reality but as citizens of reality.

What happens around us in this life has been described by C. S. Lewis as "Shadowlands". In Lewis' mind and in his own words, "*This is only the land of shadows. Real life hasn't begun yet*".

As the Apostle Paul said it, "*Now, we see as in a mirror, dimly, but then, face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known*"<sup>6</sup>... and that is, in entirety: in full revelation: knowing what we cannot now know... fully!

*"If you abide in my Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free"*<sup>7</sup>.

Pastor

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5 2Cor 4:3,4

6 1Cor 13:12

7 John 8:31b, 32