



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 5

This week we explored what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.” (1 Corinthians 13.12) We are on a journey of sight improvement! It’s the opposite of the common earthly experience where sight deteriorates over time. In fact, the hope of a maturing Christian is that as our physical sight lessens, our spiritual sight will increase. Have you ever noticed that it can be easier to see spiritual things when your eyes are closed? When Pastor Angela shared John’s vision from Revelation, I noticed myself closing my eyes and “seeing” the return of Jesus and the wiping away of tears. Take notice this week of the times and places your spiritual sight is most in focus. May you see Jesus a little more clearly this week!

Peace of Christ,  
Dr. Mark Youngman  
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

*Lord, open my eyes.  
Touch and heal my spiritual blindness.  
I want to see Jesus today and in the glory of heaven.  
Amen.*

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 13.9-12

*For we know in part and we prophesy in part,<sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.<sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

- All thoughts, words and images that we use in relation to God are imperfect. They are incomplete, for we can’t see all there is to see about God. Our minds and hearts would not be able to handle the fullness of the glory of God (see Exodus 33), and so we humbly admit that on this earth, we

see dimly. If someone is declaring that they see it all and know all there is to know about God, run. We see in part. When Jesus returns, our spiritual vision will come into focus—it will most likely be the most beautiful and overwhelming sight—a sight we can't now imagine. **What are some big questions about God that you look forward to having answered in heaven?**

- *God, reveal what you want to reveal to me today. You know what my heart can handle—you can be trusted with my spiritual sight. Kindle my desire to see more clearly. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: MARK 8.22-25

*They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.<sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"*

<sup>24</sup>*He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."*

<sup>25</sup>*Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.*

- Can you imagine the gradual nature of this man's healing? He hadn't seen anything, and suddenly, he was able to see shapes and light. What a drastic improvement over seeing nothing at all. But when Jesus asked him if he could see anything, he gave an answer that revealed that there was still room for improvement. He could have just answered, "Yes, I can see something." and assumed that people looked like trees. Instead, Jesus was moved to open the man's eyes even more until people were clearly seen. That seems to be his heart for us as well. **Name a time when God seemed to reveal something to you that you hadn't seen before.**
- *Lord, open my eyes to what I don't yet know there is to see about You and Your love for me. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: REVELATION 1.5b-8

*To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

<sup>7</sup>*"Look, he is coming with the clouds,"  
and "every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him";  
and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him."*

*So shall it be! Amen.*

<sup>8</sup>*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

- *Every eye will see him!* All people (believers and non-believers) will see Jesus when he returns. And all people (believers and non-believers) will mourn because of him. All will mourn because we will be made aware of the degree to which we misunderstood or misrepresented Jesus in this earthly life. All will fall short of the glory of God (see Romans 3.23-24), so all will mourn. While this sounds like bad news, let us remember that this only happens because Jesus (our rescuer) will be returning. We can be rescued and therefore experience heaven when he returns! **How have you typically responded to the words and images in Revelation? What is the relationship between the hard words and promises of God?**

- *God, I thank you for all of the words of promise you have given me through the scriptures. I look forward to Jesus' return. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: REVELATION 21.1-4**

*Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

- A new heaven and a new earth represent a whole new order of things. This may remind us of Jesus' sermon on the mount which shared a glimpse of the new order. What God has revealed to us is consistent. God is doing a new thing, and in the end every tear will be wiped away from our eyes. A new reality will reign. **What would you list as symptoms of the "old order of things"? What do you hope for in the new order?**
- *God, I know you dwell with us now through the presence and power of your Spirit. I long for the day when you dwell with us completely as you did when your Son walked the earth thousands of years ago. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: REVELATION 22.3-5**

*The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

- Jesus had promised us in Matthew 5.8 that the pure in heart would see God. Now we receive this revelation that the servants of God will in fact see his face. But then what does it mean that we would wear God's name on our foreheads? This is similar to the way we sometimes label the things that are ours. We belong to God, and therefore we wear his name. In the small group discussion questions below, we will explore the need for light that doesn't come from our typical sources, but for now **consider the impact on your daily life if you were to be wearing the name of God on your forehead.**
- *God, your throne will one day sit right in the middle of the new city. That is where I will see your face and wear your name. I long for that day that never ends. Amen.*

#### **SATURDAY: PSALM 146**

*Praise the LORD.*

*Praise the LORD, my soul.*

<sup>2</sup> *I will praise the LORD all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

<sup>3</sup> *Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.*

<sup>4</sup> *When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;*

*on that very day their plans come to nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.*

<sup>6</sup> *He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.*

<sup>7</sup> *He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets prisoners free,*

<sup>8</sup> *the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.*

<sup>9</sup> *The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.*

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations*

- God is often given credit for giving sight to the blind (verse 8). God is a restorer of things. Humankind once had better vision for spiritual things. In the garden of Eden, there was a purity of sight given to the faithful. But the faithful fell, and now we need to be rescued from our spiritual blindness. **Where are you most likely to put trust in your own ability to see, save and sustain yourself? Which words of Psalm 146 speak to that mistake?**
- *Lord, I want my life to sing your praise. I trust you for food and freedom, sight and salvation. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

The following quote was shared in Sunday's message.

*"Probably the spiritual sight will never be, in absolute perfectness, bestowed upon us till we enter into the light for which the spiritual state is intended; namely, the glory of that place where they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light." Charles Spurgeon*

Consider that quote along with the following verse from Revelation 22.

*There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Amen.*

- Name as many sources of light from your daily life as you can.
- Can you imagine God as a source of light? What do you imagine that looks like?
- Are you or anyone in your household afraid of the dark? How might the words from Spurgeon on Revelation bring comfort to someone who fears the dark?
- Human words and images used to describe heaven will always fall short of what we will experience when Jesus returns (when Heaven comes to earth), but can you try and describe what you picture when you think of heaven?