

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

On the wall of a concentration camp, someone carved these words: *"I believe in the sun, even though it doesn't shine. I believe in love, even when it isn't shown. I believe in God, even when He doesn't speak."*

Try to envision a malnourished hand gripping a piece of stone to cut into that wall; eyes squinting through the darkness as he carved each letter. Whose hand cut such a conviction? Whose eyes saw good in the midst of such horror? There's only one answer: eyes that chose to see the unseen.

When tragedy strikes, we too, are left to choose what we see: the hurt or the Healer. The choice is ours!
(*From He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado)

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV), "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

1. MOMENTARY TROUBLES

We all face "momentary troubles." On September 28, 2013, we buried my wife's mama on her 62nd wedding anniversary. Then a month later, I had a total shoulder replacement surgery.

Take a moment and reflect on momentary troubles in your own life.

- a. How did you handle them?
- b. Where did you find help, comfort, or encouragement?

2. DAILY RENEWAL

- a. What does the phrase "inwardly we are being renewed day by day" mean to you personally?
- b. What specific activities bring you daily renewal physically?
 - Emotionally?
 - Spiritually?

3. THE BIG PICTURE

Looking at verse 18 and thinking about your personal experiences,

- a. What happens when you become fixed on what is temporary?
- b. When Paul says "what is unseen is eternal" what do you think he was talking about?
- c. Relate these next two passages to your study.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set be-

fore him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

4. CMA MINISTRY

Bikers are people. People have problems and troubles. As you interact with bikers and others, how can these verses and your discussion help you to lead them into a personal relationship or closer walk with Jesus?

PRAYER: Pray that God will help you endure the momentary troubles, give you the necessary daily renewals to continue the fight, and help you see the big picture of His will for your lives, your chapter, and the world.