

Chaplains' Corner

Is There Mud in Your Eye?

Have you ever wondered what those little cellophane papers flying around the racetrack are all about? If it were not for those things, dirt track racers wouldn't get much good out of plastic visors or goggles. In no time they would be smudged with clay specks and worthless. So, most racers at nearly every speedway attach cellophane tear-off visors to their helmets. When the visor gets clay clods on it, they rip it off. Away it flies and they can see what's ahead.

It's very important to keep our *spiritual* eyes clean and clear of any debris. *"If your eye is pure, there will be sunshine in your soul. But if your eye is clouded with evil thoughts and desires, you are in deep spiritual darkness"* [Matthew 7:22]. Just as the racers keep the mud out of their eyes so they can race their best and fastest, we must keep the dirt of life from blinding us to the best life we can live.

Saul is described in the Bible as a man on a rampage. He delighted in capturing Christian men and women and then torturing and jailing them [Acts 8: 1-3]. He was blind to spiritual truth. On his way to grab more godly folks, God blinded him so that he could not see to continue his rampage. But, his spiritual eyes were opened to understand Jesus, God's son, for the first time. Later, after he had spent some time soaking in the love of Jesus, scales fell from his eyes and he could again see. He changed his name to Paul and spent the rest of his life furthering the message of God [Acts 9:1-18]. Have you torn off your scales of unbelief and set your sights on Jesus? It's nice to see life clearly for once!

We don't need to fret about another feller's tear-offs. Jesus asks, *"Why worry about the speck in your brother's eye when you have a board in your own?"* [Matthew 7:3]. Jesus knew how easy it is to focus on the shortcomings of others while blindly missing the mess we're making of things ourselves! Examine your own spiritual eyes and your heart. Have you got some old mud piled up that is blinding you to all the goodness of God? Ask God for help. Jesus is willing and faithful to clean you up!

We often teach children about "initiative"--see clearly what needs to be done--then do it. Life, like racing, is an action sport. However, it's difficult to get anything done if you are blinded by old muck. We try to help children learn to keep their eyes clean so they can see what needs to be done.

Our prayer is that we adults do the same.

God Bless Your Family

Chaplains Natz & Elana Peters