

STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN!

Do you remember when you were a kid and you were taught to “Stop, look, and listen”? It was a simple way for us to remember to pay attention and observe our surroundings so we wouldn’t get run over by a car, and it worked pretty well. I wonder how many lives those three simple steps have saved. I think probably many of them.

As Christians we too need to stop, look, and listen from time to time. We need to observe our surroundings and see what is happening. We need to figure out where we stand, where our family stands, and where our church stands. We need to listen to what the world is teaching, what our schools are teaching, and what we hear on TV and in the movies. Basically, we need to be sure that our lives are resting on the foundation of God’s Word (Matthew 7:24-27).

As people residing in the physical world, it is appropriate for us to stop and observe it. After all, God created it all and saw that it was very good (Genesis 1:31). He created everything for our use and enjoyment and He is the giver of all good gifts (James 1:17). Natural beauty is everywhere and it is something that we should enjoy. When is the last time you stopped to smell the roses?

Aside from the beauty of this old earth and the things that are in it, we also can see God when we look around us. Paul tells us that we can see God’s invisible attributes, even His mighty power (Romans 1:20). It should be evident to all that there must be a designer; that the universe did not happen by accident. So many of us are surrounded by buildings, roads, art and other people that we never get to just look at the beauty and complexity of nature. This is too bad, for there is so much to see. When is the last time you looked and saw the hands of God at work in the world? Look closely, it can renew your faith.

Stop, look, and listen! You might see and hear more than you bargained for, and you might learn something in the process. Take a personal time out and look around yourself. It might be a good idea to throw a prayer in there too.

MJW