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Here's Hope  
By Rev. Jerry Rea

### A Different Way to Look

When you look at things from the mountain, some things get clear. It's the perspective isn't it? It's getting higher. You see over the terrain. You're able to see beyond your next step or obstacle. Perspective is important in life. If you have nothing, then you appreciate even the little things. If your health is in danger, then you can't see straight until it's better. If your heat suddenly went out (in this cold weather) you'd not be able to focus on anything else. As a "mature" man, I look at youth differently than I did when I was in the middle of it. Having been a pastor, I readily appreciate and understand the plight of pastors. I can feel with their fears and anxieties. It's all about perspective.

Now think about yourself as a Christian. You have been called to another life. Your life is not about now; your perspective is eternity. We will not see the end of things until judgment day. We understand that this life is just part of real life. We also see the spiritual part of life as a reality as well. For some, all there is to life is what they can see, touch, and hear. We know better. Our perspective includes the inside person. We know and believe in a reality that we cannot handle. Most everybody believes in the inward man. But believers believe in God's Word and its teaching about the inward man. So when you *see* me, you're not really seeing me; you're seeing the surface me. The body you look at is not the real me. That's the reason that if a person is handicapped, he or she is still a person. That's the reason those in the assisted living facilities are still people as well. Just because your body is failing, it does not mean your spirit isn't soaring. Consider the plight of the handicapped. They are important even though their bodies are not perfect. This is the Christian perspective. The person who has it is becoming the person that God intended we be when we were created. Here's one more thing. Believers believe in an eternal Spirit that communes with our spirit. We *feel* that someone... who is there. We know that presence that helps us understand that all other things are really not that important.

How you look at things makes all the difference in the world. When you *believe*, everything changes. I believe that the Christian perspective is reality. It is the way things really are. To look at the world and leave out the spiritual is to see only half the real world. To look at the world and appreciate the *inside* makes the *outside* meaningful. When you see and appreciate the inside person, then it doesn't matter the color of the skin. That is the outside person. It doesn't matter the gender. That too is the outside person. If you can look at the inside person, then whether a person is young or old, he or she is precious: a real person.

My prayer and my heart is to see and value what He sees and values. The important thing is not this world, but this world and the next. What's important is not whether you are heavy or thin; it's the inside person.

After all, we are in transition... moving toward eternity. This is just part of a forever journey.

I'm pressing on with eternity in my eyes.

Jerry Rea