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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

What Do You See?

The speaker was talking to a group of men about depression. He had tacked up a big sheet of white paper. Then he made a black spot in the middle of the paper. He asked the person in the front seat, "What do you see?" "A black spot," was the quick answer. Repeatedly the same question was asked and just as quickly, the same answer came back.

The leader then commented, "Yes, there is a small black spot here, but none of you saw the big white paper."

The question is – "What do you see?" The moral of the story is similar. We do see the problems in our lives, but the black spots sometimes blind us to the big opportunities and blessings most of us enjoy. Wordsworth was known as a man who "saw life steadily and saw it whole." Do you see the whole of life? We see the clouds and depression easily, but do we also see God's wonders and His watch care? If we don't see His blessings, we might be accused of not seeing life accurately.

We need the Thanksgiving season to remind us to remember. Life does have hardships, depressions and obstacles, but life also has its wonder. The beauties of God's grace are everywhere. The love of a true friend or family member - that's beautiful. The small breath of fresh air that caresses our face on the way into or out of our office - that's beautiful. The joy of a small child, feeling the strength of life in limbs and lungs - that's beautiful. The love of two young people, oblivious to the world and lost in each other - that's beautiful. The love of God through Jesus, without reserve and undeserved - that's beautiful. And the list could go on. Life is full of blessings... if we only have eyes to see them.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Jerry Rea