

The Focal Point

Colossians 3:1-3: So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

A ***focal point***, is defined as “focus, the center of activity, attraction or attention.” Our focus, or focal points can shift as our environment changes. A simple example is when we shift our focus from our tasks at work to our families when we arrive home.

The concept of a central focal point came to mind recently while driving on a highway in heavy traffic. If your cars are equipped with “*lane assist*,” then you’re probably familiar with the warnings you hear or feel when you drift too close to the edge of your lane. The warnings are audible or can be a slight vibration felt on the steering wheel. This feature is to remind us to be alert and “focus.”

Surrounded by other vehicles, I found myself drifting back and forth to keep from getting too close to the cars on either side of me, causing the lane assist to become, let’s say, “very active.” I realized that yes, I needed to be well-aware of vehicles near me, but also, to recenter my focus, and concentrate on a point ahead in the distance to keep me centered in my lane. Refocusing my attention to where it needed to be allowed me to continue driving forward with less stress, and with more confidence.

That brief experience drew a parallel to what I believe may be very common among us this Lenten Season. Clearly, our world today is filled with serious concerns, some of the most serious of our generation if not beyond. Our focus, and rightly so, can easily be pulled toward horrific war scenes, health issues with the pandemic, racial violence and other concerns. Yet through it all, we can’t allow ourselves to lose sight of the One true Focal Point that has and will continue to be our never-failing source of hope and strength – ***The Cross***.

At ***The Cross*** we see Jesus, the Perfect Example of how to live our lives, Jesus who voluntarily gave His life for us to save us from sin. At ***The Cross*** we find the eternal peace that only Jesus can offer. And at ***The Cross*** we find the One and Only answer to saving our world from ourselves.

We have so much to pray for this Lenten Season – our families, friends, leaders, and millions of people overseas that we have never met. During this sacred time of year, as our world events draw such serious concern, worry and anxiety, let’s remember to keep our focus and center of attention on the Focal Point that can lead us to peace and overcome any challenge we, or our world may be facing.

When the world around us causes us to react and drift, let’s remember to shift our focal point to ***The Cross***, and place all our concerns in the trusting Hands of our Lord Jesus.

Blessings for peace and a prayerful Lenten Season,

Dom Perfetti