

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*What do you see?* This is the question for our consideration today as we move through this world. One morning recently I saw a deer, a rabbit, a dog and a possum. And they were all lying dead near the road upon which I was riding. Not all in the same place. Not all at the same time. But all in the same morning and during the same journey. All those lifeless creatures along the side (and within) the roadway exhibited the evidence of a world under the dominion of death. As I traveled along the roadway, I made turns at different intersections and crossroads. Although I was on roads of different names, I was still on one road, the road upon which I was living. I could not escape the reality of those dead things along the way, silently testifying to me in my reality. Death is ever present on this road of Life. Let me share more about some things that I saw, if I may.

A deer was lying beside the road and its eyes were opened as though it desperately wanted to see something different. More than likely the loss of life occurred when the fleet footed creature collided with a faster moving creation. Probably those open eyes never saw death coming. The poor little rabbit was still stretched out a few feet on the left side shoulder of the road. It's as if one last leap was frozen in time and demonstrated a desperate last ditch effort to get to the ditch. Too late...maybe it thought with its lightning speed it would be able to dodge the Dodge, so to speak. Timing is critical in matters of life and death. A little while later I saw the dog. It was lying on the opposite side of the road. I don't know if the dog was chasing something he couldn't catch, or caught something he shouldn't have chased. I used to have a dog that chased cars. And I often wondered why he couldn't see the nature of this perilous attraction.

Then there was the possum. It was really dead...not playing possum! But as I approached the scene on this scenic country road I couldn't really see the possum because it was hidden and surrounded. It had company... bad company. The possum was hidden and surrounded by four hungry buzzards that were picking its bones. As my pickup truck approached, I expected the buzzards to fly away and three of them did. But one hard-headed buzzard would not move. I almost had to stop. After all, what kind of mess would it be if that buzzard died when struck by my truck? Seems like that would be road kill magnified! Finally the buzzard mounted up with wings...not like eagles... but more like a buzzard. He flew only as far as the side of the road, waiting on me to pass by straddling the dead possum, so he could return to its feast of death. I guess death tastes really good to some creatures.

So back to our question. *What do you see?* You can find it repeated often in the Word of God. Particularly to some of the prophets who are hearing this from the Lord. Jeremiah, Zechariah, and Amos, just to name a few. Amos declared that he was not a prophet or a son of a prophet, but the Lord called him to be one. Now I declare to you that I surely am *not* a prophet. But I often hear this question as well. Can you hear it too? I believe the Spirit of God is whispering to us to see the dangers of sin's judgment in our culture and wake up to our deception as God's people. We are surely traveling on this road of life with death ever present. We are often wide-eyed to faster lifestyles but blind to the hidden dangers. Or we often see the dangers but think we are fast enough and wise enough to escape the pursuit of sin. I wish I could have told the rabbit and some people I know to flee...a good run is always better than a bad stand! My day of seeing these things reminded me of where I am. And sometimes I have been like the dog...dying while chasing things I shouldn't be chasing. Pursuing things that will pick my bones.

When you have time to consider...*like right now*...consider reading Proverbs 9. Focus on the last verse that I have copied here. There is temptation that is present in this world that we need to see and respond rightly toward. This verse won't make a lot of sense unless you read the whole chapter. So read the chapter, focus on this verse, and *tell me what you see* as it pertains to you and your journey on this road of life.

*But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol. (Proverbs 9:18)*

One teacher says that this person caught in sin's trap is actually attending *a banquet in the grave*. That's something only the buzzards find attractive. Sin always leads to death. God said so. But He also gives hope to His creatures caught in sin's trap by a ruthless trapper, intent on destruction. Repent of your sin and live!

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam