Unseen

By: Billy Hix

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:18

*We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal*

One of the best parts of growing up in rural poverty was that I experienced dark skies to view the stars and planets at night. I have always loved looking at the stars and dreaming about space travel. I seemed to be called to look up. And I was quite a dreamer as a young person. Even in my darkest days, I always dreamed that I would work with people going into space. And when I looked up, I knew there was more than I could see.

Well, not only did I get to work with people going into space, at the end of my career I even got to teach those people who are teaching students about science and the night sky. Today, I have my own personal observatory in the field next to my home in Shelbyville, TN, and I travel to schools to tell students about how cool it is to be smart and to enjoy the night sky with my portable planetarium. The night sky gives me a perspective that calms me, no matter what the year might bring. I have telescopes that are large to look in or smaller ones to take images with. I love having students and teachers over to take a look, for I get to show them things that can’t be seen with just your eyes alone.

How often we chase after what we can see, worry about what we see before us, and even complain about what we see around us. How easy it is to forget, or not even be aware, that there is an entire universe just beyond our vision. When I was in college, we were told that there might be a few hundred million galaxies, then by the 1990s astrophysicists had refined our view deeper and were thinking a couple of billion, and then by 2005, we were thinking tens of billions. But today we are thinking at least 200 billion galaxies (and the count may be much larger). For some people, that knowledge makes one feel small, but not me. I think about out of all of that vastness, how rare and special it is that I get to meet one of you and how unique it is that God would know or even love me. I wish we could all look down at social media less and up at the night sky more, for we might all appreciate how vast of a universe that God has created. The peace that one could experience by just daydreaming about a starry sky has no end.

*Prayer*: Thank you for loving us and knowing us within the vastness of the cosmos. And may we all remember that you have us in your hands of grace and that nothing is invisible to you.

*Thought for the day*

God is visible to each of us. Sometimes, all you have to do is to look up