Date: 3/18/17

Title: Humility and Pride

Theme: God wants us to be humble so we will trust in HIm.

Object: Binoculars

Text: 1 Peter 5:5 (NIV) All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

There are two very important words in this verse: “proud” and “humble.”

The Bible says that God opposes or resists the proud but shows favor to the humble.

But it is just as true that the proud resist God and the humble receive Him.

God wants us to be humble so we can receive His grace and love.

Pride and humility are two opposites.

Pride is thinking how great you are, and humility is thinking how small you are.

I brought something in the bag this morning that I hope will help us understand the difference between pride and humility.

[Binoculars: Discuss uses. Bird watching, moon and stars, spy on neighbors.]

Here’s an interesting thing about binoculars: you can look through both ends.

When you look through the small end, everything seems large; when you look through the large end, everything looks small.

Now what does that have to do with pride and humility?

The proud person looks at himself through the small end, and he says to himself: “Look how big and important and good I am. I’m better than all the little people around me.”

And he looks at God through the large end and says to himself: “Look how small and unimportant God is. I don’t really need to depend on Him.”

So the proud person ends up thinking he doesn’t need God.

The humble person looks at God through the small end and says to himself: “Look how big and important and mighty and holy and loving God is.”

And he looks at himself through the big end and says: “Look how little and feeble and tiny and weak and sinful I am.

So the humble person ends up knowing that he needs God to make his life a success, while the proud person doesn’t think he needs God at all.

That makes a big difference.

If you think you don’t need God, you’re not going to trust in Jesus as your Savior and Friend.

But if you are humble, and know that you are weak and sinful and need a Savior, then you will trust Jesus to be your Savior and forgive your sins.

The proud person says: “I am great, I don’t need God.”

The humble person says: “God is great, I really need Him.”

Which do you want to be this morning?

How many want to say: “God is great, not me. I want Jesus to be my Savior and Friend?”