

## The Eyes of Man

Today we will take another short break from the two topics, "money & riches" and "blessing God", and consider "the eyes of man". We will cover two points; (1) the eyes are the source of sin, and (2) the eyes are the light of the body.

Let us add a little detail to our points:-

### 1. The eyes are the source of sin

Gen 3:6 *And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Have you ever told someone, or been told that you have beautiful eyes? Well, your eyes whether they are blue or crimson, or any other colour, may look beautiful to others, but such beauty is only "skin deep", because the eyes *are* the source of sin. We know Satan provokes man to sin and challenged God's words, but it was not until Eve looked on the tree and *saw* that it was good, that she desired what she *saw*, hence "the eyes are source of sin in Gen.3:6" (see Dr.P. Ruckman Gospel of Matthew Commentary, under his commentary of Matt.6: 22). And since man's disobedience in the garden his nature has been sinful (see Rom.5: 12). This sinfulness of man is evident in the example of King David when he looked on Bathsheba from the roof and *seeing* she was very beautiful to *look* upon, he took her to wife, and had her husband killed in battle. These examples of Eve in the garden, and David on the roof show that when the *eyes* look and the heart desires what is beholden, the eyes *are* the source of sin.

Any idea which of the Ten Commandments Eve and David disobeyed? It was Ex.20:17 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that [is] thy neighbour's* (see also Deut 5:21, the tenth commandment).

Examples in Scripture where we are warned about the eyes and the trouble they can get a man into include:-

- i) In the Psalms David reflects on his experience and encourages us to *set no wicked thing before mine eyes* (see Ps.101: 3).
- ii) Job realised how much trouble he could get himself into from his eyes when he made a covenant with his eyes (Job.30: 1).
- iii) The Lord Jesus taught that if man *looked* on a woman that was not his wife to lust after her, then he committed adultery (see Matt.5: 28). And in the very next verse, the offending eye is to be plucked out (verse 29). As we saw in our original two examples, the eyes are not only the source of man's sin, but a woman's also (see also Prov.6: 25).
- iv) 2Pet.2: 3 & 14 the false teachers are recorded as bringing in damnable heresies (verse 1) and will follow their pernicious (destructive, ruinous) ways, having *eyes* full of adultery. And between verses 1-14 there are examples of the flood and Sodom. Where the flood was sent as judgment on the ungodly that lived in Noah's day (verse 5), and the condemning of Sodom & Gomorrah with ashes and brimstone was for their wickedness and exceeding sinfulness (verse 6), which we know to be the unnatural lusting (Rom.1: 27) of the sin of sodomy. And where did these sins start? with the eyes.

In the NZ Protestant's latest issue the front page article on Christians for Marriage Equality (CfME), the author did not include details of the CfME's submission to government that denied Sodomy as "lusting after the flesh (see Rom. 1: 27)". The CfME argue that "the sexual activity that Paul describes here [referring to Rom.1:27] is marked by lust and says nothing about the relationship of a faithful and committed gay or lesbian couple". So you can say anything to get around what God says is iniquity if you want to justify your sin. But Sodomy *is* unnatural lusting that starts with the eyes. And once you see something (a car, boat, house, or bucket of money in a bank), or someone that is to beautiful to look on (which for a man, is naturally a woman, and for a woman is naturally a man), and your heart desires what you see, then you have sinned.

The world has been captivated by the devil through the medium of television, computer games and the internet. For a man to get drawn into these and spend time in them rather than in Scripture, he must first look upon the media with his eyes.

I remember when I was unsaved, I would think nothing of spending a day watching New Zealand play Australia in cricket, or the Commonwealth Games. Many men in Australia are mesmerised by sports on TV, and hence motels encourage the distraction by putting on two or sometimes three sports channels in their rooms to fulfil the lust of the eyes for sport. Think about the crowds of people sitting in front of the TV being captivated by the America's Cup Yachting regatta. For an unsaved man he has no excuse, his senses are dulled and he has been seduced by the devil, where at an early age his parents sit him down in front of the TV where his wanting for entertainment grows. But for the saved man he is to die to the lusts of the flesh and of the eyes (see 1Jn.2: 16), and when his eyes see sport or movies or games as a more fulfilling use of time than reading Scripture, then he needs to spend time with his God, and die daily to what his eyes have seen and his heart desires.

One of the tried and proven devices of the devil for men is the lure of a beautiful woman as identified in Prov.6: 23-25. David fell for it when he *looked* on Bathsheba as did his son Solomon with his 700 wives and 300 concubines, and many have since followed these great men of God. We know that the Lord Jesus taught if a man *looks* on a woman that is not his wife, and lusts after her in his heart, he has committed adultery. By way of a personal example I remember when Karen and I were courting, and we went to a dance one night and I spent my time gazing around the room rather than with my eyes focused on Karen. I knew I had a problem with wandering eyes and we talked, and I took my sin to the Lord.

When you find your eyes wandering then I encourage you to pray and ask the Lord for help to implement David and Paul's counsel. David as we have already seen, taught us to *set no wicked thing before [our] mine eyes* (Ps.101: 3) and Paul's counsel can be found in Rom.13: 14, *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof*.

Let us pray for the weak, the young, and those who struggle with eyes that sin. Let us pray for them, and ourselves, lest we too be tempted by the tempter (see 1Thes.3: 5). And remember that the eyes are the source of sin.

## 2. The eyes are the light of the body

Matt.6: 22 *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be light.*

If you have ever thought that there is no difference between the Authorised Bible and the corrupt versions, well look up Matt.6: 22 in the Living Bible. If you do not have one, then check out the comparison;

Living Bible:- "If your eye is pure, there will be sunshine in your soul".

Holy Scripture:- "The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be light."

Therefore, when we use a corrupt copy of the Holy Scriptures and read Matt.6: 22, we are unable to make this point and the meaning of the verse is distorted.

So looking at Matt.6:22 we ask, what does the verse mean? To help establish a meaning we will need to consider the context which we discern when we read verses 22 & 23:-

"The light of the body is the eye:"

"If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

"If thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness."

"If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

Having established the verse in its context we now consider other verses in Scripture that refer to the 'light' to help establish a meaning for our verse.

We see that the Lord Jesus is the light (see Jn.8:12), and because a believer has the Holy Spirit of God residing in them (see 1Cor.3:16), it is understandable that Scripture also says that the believer has light that shines from them (see Matt.5: 14 & 16). Then in 1Thes.5: 5 we find that believers are the children of light, and are to shine as lights in the world (see Phil.2: 15). Hence the believer is to radiate the light of Christ, and the amount of Christ's light that a believer radiates is determined by their sin and the amount of fruit they bear.

For example; if a believer bears all the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (see Gal.5: 22 & 23), they are likely to emit a brighter light of Christ than a believer who struggles to bear any fruit. For a second example, if a believer gives into their sin, and does not die to their transgressions but calls them good, then they are likely to shine a dimmer light for Christ, compared to a believer who calls their sin transgression of the law and dies daily to their iniquities.

For a believer to bear all the fruit of the Spirit and die daily to their sin, such a believer would be focused single-mindedly on Christ, which is achieved when the believer's eye is singularly focused on the Lord, perhaps closely related to the singleness of heart in Eph.6: 5 & Col.3: 22. The opposite would be the case for a believer who has lost his focus on Christ and his eye radiate more of the world than the Scriptures of truth, or more darkness than light. Perhaps such a believer is backslidden and walking in the ways of the world.

Have you ever heard the saying, "the eyes are the window to the soul"? Well according to the Daily Mail scientists have confirmed that this saying, which is established from Scripture, is now scientific truth; "scientists at Orebro University in Sweden compared the eyes of 428 subjects with their personality traits to see if these structures in the iris reflected their characters...Their findings showed those with densely packed crypts are more warmhearted, tender, trusting, and likely to sympathise with others. In comparison, those with more contraction furrows were more neurotic, impulsive and likely to give way to cravings." <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-436932/Scientists-discover-eyes-really-window-soul.html#ixzz2euEhnZyU>

It is always encouraging to Christians when science proves Bible truths to be scientific fact.

Just when you thought that the only one who knows how much light you shine for Christ is God in heaven, it now *appears* that your eyes show the world the depth of light you emit for the Lord Jesus Christ.

How much darkness is in your body? How much sin or evil do you hold onto from your old man? The level of darkness you cling to will be visible through your eyes to those who have discernment to see. So on one hand Christ's light in us could shine dimly because of our sin or lack of fruit, and on the other hand we could emit Christ's light like a beacon on a reef that everyone sees for miles around. *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light* (see Eph.5: 8).

How much light do you shine for Christ?

Do you attract the lost by the light you shine for Christ, or do the heathen see no difference between your darkness and their own?

In our first point the eyes look upon something or someone, and if the heart desires what is seen (as was the examples with Eve and David), then we sin. And in this point we have seen that the eyes also show how much of Christ's light we emit, which shows our heart. Let us keep our eyes single-mindedly on Christ, let us ask the Lord to help us be children of light that shine brightly for our Saviour. A light that attracts the lost to the cross of Christ.

Having said what we have said, let us say it again. In this study on "the eyes of man", we have covered two points; (1) the eyes are the source of sin, and (2) the eyes are the light of the body.