

Light of the Body

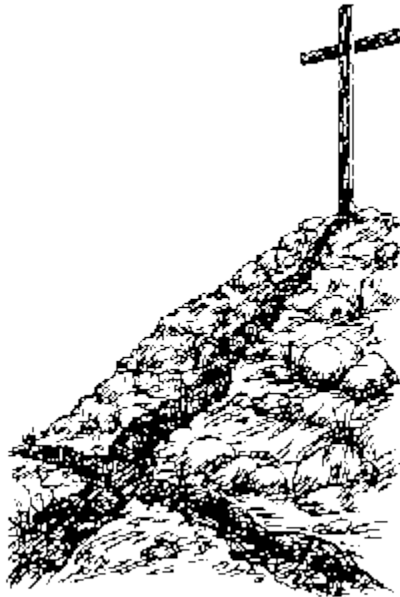
Matthew 6:22-23

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Matthew 6:22-23 (KJV) "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single¹, thy whole body shall be full of light. {23} But if thine eye be evil², thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

¹ haplous {pronounced hap-looce'}, whole or healthy, able to focus

² poneros {pon-ay-ros'}, bad, diseased, wicked

1. Our Eyes Must Be Focused On God's Light!

Matthew 6:22(KJV) "... if therefore thine eye be single¹, thy whole body shall be full of light.

The first point we need to see today is that our eye must be focused on the "Light of God". There are many, many lights in this world. **Satan loves to use and mimic** a type of light in his angels:

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 (KJV) "But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. {13} For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of

Christ. {14} And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. {15} Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Satan has **many ministers** today who preach **Light, light**, and yet their light has no saving power. Mohammed thought Allah to be a light. Joseph Smith thought the **Mormon** angel Moroni to be a light. The Jehovah's Witnesses believed Taz Russell to be a light. The "good" crowd today believes that any way to God is equally good.

There are **deluded ministers** who preach **their church and their baptism alone offers light**. You sully Jesus, you shame Jesus when you take what He alone did and seek to grasp it by your filthy works! Who helps Jesus? The Scripture says NO ONE helps Jesus:

Hebrews 1:3 (KJV) "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when **he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"**

Who helped Jesus? No one! He by **Himself purged our sins**. Charles Spurgeon, that prince of preachers, said:

"Do you not know, O man, that your idea of mixing your merits or your doings up with Christ betrays an utter ignorance of what you are and of what your good works are? Your good works are stained with sin. Your best performances need to be washed in blood. When you have prayed you need to ask forgiveness for your prayer. Though you should give your body to be burned, and spend your whole life in the service of Christ, yet at last you will have to confess that you were an unprofitable servant. You will have to be saved by grace, or not at all!" (from 'A Single Eye and a Simple Faith').

But we who are truly Christian by faith in Christ alone know this:

1 Thessalonians 5:5-9 (KJV) "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. {6} Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. {7} For they that sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are

drunken in the night. {8} But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. {9} For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"

A **Christian is not appointed to wrath**, but to eternity, because we have believed unto Jesus Christ for our Salvation. The only Light of Salvation we will focus our eyes on is Jesus! To those who believe that there are *many lights*, whose eye is not *single* and *focused*, these see death and the **Throne room of God as a place of cursing**. For us who have seen the Light, Jesus Christ our Savior, the Throne room is a **place of blessing**. The Bible tells us of a time when:

Revelation 6:15-17 (KJV) "... the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; {16} And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: {17} For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

We are in a time, now, of blessing, a Dispensation of Grace where any who will come to Jesus for salvation will be saved. All who have fixed their eyes on Jesus Christ, that Great Light of the world, they shall never see condemnation or damnation. Those who are focused on Jesus are saved from the Day of Wrath.

2. Christians Must Govern Their Eyes

It is sad to me, but many who profess Christ, though saved from wrath, do not understand that they must still guard or govern their eyes. Hear me, Believer. **Your eyes are truly windows to your soul!** You rarely hear this taught today, but the eyes are perhaps *the most important asset you have that the Devil will try to influence*. If you are a Christian, you need to be careful what you allow in your eye gate – and you need to be careful what you allow in your family's eye gate. In the *Sermon on the Mount* Jesus mentions the eyes and how we should govern them a number of times.

An improper use of the eye gate can corrupt the soul! Read again our focal verse:

**Matthew 6:22-23 (KJV) "The light of the body
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is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single¹, thy whole body shall be full of light. {23} But if thine eye be evil², thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

The eyes are literally windows to the soul. **No one understands this better than Hollywood.** When movies first came out they were a novelty. The movie producers were careful to make sure that the movies maintained a certain standard of decency. It literally caused a scandal when **Rhett Butler used the "d"** word in the movie "Gone With The Wind". My, how we've changed!

There's a phenomenon that occurs when someone drives at high speeds for a long period of time, and it's called "**velocitation**". Because the eyes become so accustomed to high speed travel, when you need to slow down in the city it becomes hard to do so. You think that you are just going *too slow*. The only way to recover from velocitation is to pull over, get out of the car, and rest your eyes for a while. Otherwise, you may get a speeding ticket!

We as humans have done the same thing with our eye gates. What was once **visually shocking is no longer visually shocking.** We walked along the

wide road of worldliness, the well attended road, and have allowed things to enter our eye gates that never should have entered. We allowed evil to flood our sight rather than Godliness, and have become desynthesized to violence. As our **tolerances increase**, as more darkness becomes tolerable on the television and in the movies, it no longer hurts.

We must **repent** and turn away from it. Our children must be restricted from it. This is not a popular thing, but it is true.

How did the Devil lead our forefather, Adam, to fall into destruction and sin? The Bible says that he enticed them with their eyes. Listen!

Genesis 3:6 (KJV) "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."

Did you read that? "**it was pleasant to the eyes**". Neither woman nor man had taste the fruit yet, but *it looked good*, and because it looked good they passed it into their mouths. There is **not** one

mention in the Scripture as to whether the fruit **tasted good** or not: it looked good, and so they ate it.

The **eye gate is the first place where the Devil attacks**. The Book of Judges ends with this terrible statement:

Judges 21:25 (KJV) "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

When the eye gate ceases to be governed by God, then we bind ourselves over to that which should not be our King. Satan offered Adam the forbidden fruit and, since it was so pretty, Adam took a taste. From that moment on God was not Adam's King, but Adam became enslaved to sin, to that which he served. He *saw what was pretty, ignored the Word of God, and followed his eyes to destruction*. This has been a terrible pattern

3. If You Do Not Govern Your Eyes, You Will Be Enslaved By Your Eyes

Matthew 6:23 (KJV) " ... But if thine eye be evil², thy whole body shall be full of darkness.

It's an interesting fact, but if you do not **internally**

and with focus control your eyes – which are, after all, your servants – then your eyes will control you! Your eyes will become a means by which **Satan controls your very soul**. No, you think? The Bible says:

Proverbs 6:27-28 (KJV) "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? {28} Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?"

The light of the body is the eye: we must be careful what we shine in that window! When Satan came to our Lord Jesus Christ to tempt Him in the desert, the Bible says:

Matthew 4:8 (KJV) "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them ..."

He showed Jesus the pretty lights, the **glory** of these wonderful Kingdoms. The **value of gold** is in its pretty golden light. The **value of diamonds** are in their twinkling, something delightful to the eyes. Men have fought battles, robbed, killed, and blasphemed God to grab hold of the lovely.

You know what a monkey trap is? In Africa the monkey hunters drill a hole in a coconut, just big enough for a monkey to stick in his hand and arm, so long as the hand is open and extended. However, if the hand is in a fist, it cannot enter or come out.

The monkey hunters put a worthless shiny stone in the coconut, big enough to ensure the monkey's hand cannot come out while clinching the stone. The monkey is curious. He is attracted to the shiny object he spots inside the hole. Sticks in his hand and grasps the shiny, worthless pebble. Now he is possessive. He won't let go. The coconut is anchored to the tree. The monkey hunters come. The monkey is screaming in fear, but he is captured, because he is holding onto a shiny, worthless pebble which becomes more important to him than his freedom.

When Jesus was shown the lovely things of this world, the world's glory, He responded:

Matthew 4:10 (KJV) "... Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

You see, His eye was *single*, focused on serving God the Father. So many times we allow the devil to show us something shiny and pretty: a pretty bauble, a pretty relationship, a pretty stone, and

we reach into the Devil's coconut and grab it. Then we're enslaved to that thing.

Though Jesus Christ died for *every person who ever lived*, though His payment on the Cross is sufficient for any who believe to be saved:

1 John 2:2 (KJV) "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

Even so, relatively few will find salvation. Why? Because their eyes will not be looking for salvation, but will be looking at the pretty things of this world. Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

John 10:10 (KJV) "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Yet few who profess to know Christ have abundant life. I have seen way to many people who profess Christ as Savior *weeping hopelessly at the head of some casket*. Oh my Beloved, this must not be!

We sorrow not as the unbeliever, for we know in
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Whom we have believed! If you want to live a victorious life in Christ you must focus on the Light, not on the darkness.

What Is God Telling Me?

I as a human being have a choice to make. It is a clear choice. I can either focus on and believe on Jesus Christ as my Savior, or I can walk away from Jesus and do what I want. It is *impossible* to read the Biblical words of Jesus and not know that He demands our undivided loyalty to Him.

A **blind man came to Jesus one day to be healed** – and Jesus healed him. This man, his eye was corrupt, evil, but Jesus gave him light. The Bible says:

Matthew 12:22-30 (KJV) "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. {23} And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? {24} But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. {25} And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation;

and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: {26} And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? {27} And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. {28} But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. {29} Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. {30} He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

Those last words are *very telling*, and you may have to answer them one day. Jesus said:

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad"

Being a Christian means being **committed to Christ. If you're not with Jesus, you're against Jesus.** If you do not gather with Jesus, then you scatter abroad. May God make you stand with Jesus!