

**CHRISTIAN EYE CARE:
Sanctification by Seeing the Lord
(Matthew 6:19-24)**

I. WELCOME / PRAYER

- A. Welcome
- B. Pastoral Prayer

II. TODAY'S TEXT AND INTRODUCTION

A. Text

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be as well. ²²The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is *that* darkness! ²⁴No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. – Mt. 6:19-24

B. Change: People are desperate for it . . . and often wonder if it's even possible!

C. In today's text, our Lord says it IS possible, AND he tells us how!

D. Something to note: This is a scriptural sandwich:

- The meat: ²² The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is *that* darkness!
- The bread: Money! (Plug in any other distraction you wish)

C. Three key points related to spiritual change:

1. Your eyes were made for looking
2. Looking at the wrong things will make you worse
3. By God's grace, looking at the right thing(s) will make you better

III. # 1: YOUR EYES WERE MADE FOR LOOKING

A. Text: *The Lamp of the Body is the Eye.*

B. MP: God created the physical eye to be a window through which the light of the world pours in; in that sense the physical eye is the lamp of the body. But why were our spiritual eyes created (Eph. 1)?

B. The angels give us the answer!

Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; ⁶and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.” – Rev. 4:5-8

MP: As with the angels, so with us: our spiritual eyes were created to admit the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. *But something happened!*

IV. LOOKING AT THE WRONG THING YOU WILL CHANGE FOR THE WORSE

A. Text: *If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness*

B. It happened to Satan (an angel who took his eyes off the Prize)

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you . . . ¹⁷Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. – Ezek. 28

How you have fallen from heaven, O shining one, O son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” ¹⁵But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. – Is. 14:12f

C. It happened to us through Adam’s sin:

- *homo incurvatus in se*: humanity curved in upon itself. – Luther

⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you partake of her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. . . . ⁷ *In the measure that she glorified herself and lived in luxury, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’* ⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. – Rev. 14

MP: Pride and self-exaltation is the essence of the world-system.

“Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self. The former, in a word, glories in itself, the latter in the Lord.” – Augustine

D. *We go from bad to worse* as we keep looking at the wrong thing

- Our text: Money (e.g., Midas and his poor daughter)
- Lot’s wife: Sodom (representing the corrupt world-system)
- Narcissus: Self-love leading to death
- James: The Desires of the Flesh: “Rather, each one is tempted when he is lured away and enticed by his own evil desires. ¹⁵ Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”
- Leviticus, and the perils of porn

D. Moral: A bad eye is an eye focused on the wrong things, or idolatrously focused on good things, and will result in a body that is full of darkness. **TURN AWAY FROM THEM!** (Note: Discipline needed!)

V. LOOKING AT THE RIGHT THING, YOU WILL CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

A. Text: *But if your eye is good, your whole body will be full with light.*

B. At conversion, we were changed for the better by looking to Christ

- Drawn, illuminated, energized to bestow (worship)
- The example of Moses
- The teaching of Jesus: ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. ¹⁴ As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵ so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. – John 6
- The teaching of Jesus: All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. “For

this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” – John 6

MP: Salvation is by SEEING

C. In the process of sanctification, we are changed for the better ALSO by looking to Christ through the window of Scripture: **Sanctification is by SEEING too.**

- We are NOT changed by striving to keep the law (Rom. 7)
- Newton: “If Christ died, rose from the dead, and entered into glory only to assure us that the practice of virtue is the duty and dignity of man, and in every circumstance his wisest and safest course, then I may venture to say that Christ died and rose in vain.”
- What then DOES Newton commend as the highest duty and dignity of man? Exactly what Paul commends:

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. – 2 Cor. 3:18

- But how do we behold Christ, and thus be changed? Paul’s Answer:

*For until this very day the same veil remains unlifted at the **reading** of the Old Testament; because only in Christ is it removed⁴ once and for all. ¹⁵ Yes, to this very day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart; ¹⁶ but whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.⁵ – 2 Cor. 3* MP: Get to the Window of the Word!!!!

- Life-changing sightings of Christ: God the Son, Creator, Sustainer, Controller, the Last and Perfect Man, Savior, the Risen One, the Ascended One, the Glorified One, High King (seated One), High Priest, High Prophet, Soon-coming Consummator of all things; Shepherd, Commander, Servant, Friend, Husband, eternal Lover of My Soul . . .
- Seeing leads to feeling leads to worship leads to love, joy, and eager obedience (to the commandments of Christ, which are not burdensome)
- The example of Karl: A sighting of the throne!
- Newton’s Poetic Motto: Since the Savior I have known, my rules are all reduced to One: To keep my Lord by faith in view; this strength supplies, and motives, too!

D. Moral: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus!

V. APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION: HOW DO WE CHANGE? BY PRACTICING CHRISTIAN EYE CARE!

- Come
- Pray

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you, and *also* of your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give *God* thanks for you, *always* making mention *of you* in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, would give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; ¹⁸ that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened . . . Eph. 1

- Turn from (all idols)
- Turn to (Christ, and the things above that he will show you)
- Look through (the window of the Word for your Beloved!)
- When the going gets rough (i.e., when you can only see your sin and failure) look afresh at the Gospel of Christ: By being in Him, we are righteous and beloved in God's sight. (In God's eyes, Snakes on a Rock are Saints on a Rock (This is biblical I-Care, I-Talk)
- When you look at others, look at them through your Good Eye: Mercifully, compassionately, graciously:

3 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable *and* gentle, showing perfect courtesy¹ to all men. ³ For at one time we ourselves were also foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful *and* hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not because of deeds that we had done in righteousness, but according to His *own* mercy, through *the* washing of regeneration and *the* renewing work of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. -- Titus

- In short, have a heart like Mary Magdalene, who sought her Lord and clung to Him!

¹⁰ So the disciples went back to their own homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb, weeping. Then, as she was weeping, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels dressed in white, sitting in the place where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but did not realize that it was him. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Then Mary, thinking that he was the gardener, said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him off, tell me where you have put him, and I will come and get him."³ ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" Turning around,

Mary said to him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “You cannot hold onto me,⁴ for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God.’”¹⁸ So Mary Magdalene came to the disciples, declaring, “I have seen the Lord!”, and relating to them the things he had said to her. – John 20