

The Old Paths

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“Don’t Believe Your Eyes!”

Jarrod Jacobs

Magicians’ sleight of hand fools most people when it is done correctly. When watching them, we are wise when we heed the warning, “Don’t believe your eyes.” In entertainment, many a short man has been made taller by filming him next to his “leading lady” while he stands on a box! Many a computer has generated scenes and events for movies that could never happen otherwise. Again, don’t believe your eyes! Our senses can be fooled in many ways. I remember when Isaac had his senses fooled when his sense of “touch” told him one thing, while his sense of “hearing” told him something else (Gen. 27:22). Since our senses, especially our sense of sight, can be misled, does it not then make sense that through our senses, specifically our sight, Satan will tempt us to do evil? This is what he does!

Eve’s Sin

In the beginning, Satan tempted Eve by what the apostle John described as “*the lust of the eyes*” (I Jn. 2:16). Satan encouraged Eve to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil in contradiction to God’s command (Gen. 3:4-5). When, among other things, Eve “*saw*” the fruit was “*pleasant to the eyes*” she ate of that fruit (Gen. 3:6). This was not the only means Satan used to tempt her, but the lust of the eyes, the appeal to what her eyes

saw, was a key element in her temptation, her sin, and ultimately her spiritual death (Gen. 2:15-17; Jas. 1:14-15).

Bible Warnings Concerning Our Eyes

In like manner, we must be careful with our sense of sight and what we look at from day to day. We can be fooled by what we see if we are not cautious and careful in our observation. We need to appreciate the warnings God has given to us in reference to our sense of sight.

For example, long ago, Job said, “*I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?*” (Job 31:1). He was wise and saw the dangers associated with using his eyes and mind to lust after a woman. Christ also thought that our sense of sight could lead us into sin. He said, “*Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*” (Matt. 5:28). Let us pay close attention to these words! Both God and Satan know that the lust of the eyes can lead us into sin. Therefore, we must be on guard with our sight to make sure we do not sin by lusting after others!

Another sin we can commit with our eyes is when we have a “*proud look*” (Prov. 6:17-19). God hates the proud look; it is an abomination to Him. This is made clear as we read in the Bible of God’s hatred for pride and the proud look as well as God’s commendation for humility.

Continuing our study, we see

where the apostle Peter wrote to the Christians “*scattered abroad*,” warning them about false teachers. He described false teachers in the following way: “*Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: a heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness*” (II Pet. 2:14-15). Notice that these were people the Holy Spirit said had “*eyes full of adultery*”! How did they get that way? Does this description sound like these people are worthy examples, and the kind of people who are going to lead us to Heaven by their examples? When people around us have eyes that are “*full of adultery*”, don’t believe your eyes (or theirs)!

At times, our little children will sing the song, “O, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See.” After reading of God’s warnings concerning our eyes, perhaps it would be good for the adults to sing this song as well from time to time!

Walking By Faith Or By Sight?

When we think about the statement, “Don’t believe your eyes!” we need to also remember what the apostle Paul wrote about our eyes and our faith. He wrote to the Corinthians and said, “*For we walk by faith, not by sight*” (II Cor. 5:7). In context, he was talking about the Christians’ future glory and how we look forward to seeing Heaven, God, and Christ one day. He was content to be “*absent from the body and to be present with the Lord*” (v. 8). What about us? Are we walking by faith or by sight? Have we learned not to believe our eyes (they can be deceived), but believe the word of the God of Heaven who “*cannot lie*” (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; I Pet. 4:11)?

“Titus”

Aric Russell

Titus is a letter that was written by Paul to Titus. This letter was written to a young preacher assigned to a difficult task. The churches on the island of Crete needed to be strengthened and this letter is designed to help Titus in that work. Therefore, Paul wrote a letter to encourage Titus; to see that qualified men were put in place of eldership, to preach things which were proper for sound doctrine, and to exhort the brethren to be zealous for good works. Let us look at some things that Titus was instructed to do.

In Titus 1:5, we find that Titus was to appoint elders in every city. An elder is one who is to be a leader in the church. He is to shepherd or lead the flock that is among them. Now who is to be an elder? We can read of the qualifications of elders in two different places. Those two places are I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Do the elders of the church you attend meet all the requirements laid out in Timothy and Titus? For the Lord’s Church to be well-fed and well-led, we must have men who meet these qualifications in Titus.

Not only was Titus to appoint elders in the churches, but he was to speak the things which were proper for sound doctrine. The word “sound” means to be in good health. Therefore, sound doctrine is that which is spiritually healthy or wholesome. Paul instructed Titus to teach the things regarding sound doctrine to the older men, the older women, the young women, and the younger men (Titus 2:1-8). If we all strove to follow the things mentioned in Titus in regard to

sound doctrine, we would see the Lord’s Church grow stronger and stronger.

As we continue to study Titus, we come to the final chapter. Chapter three tells us of how those who have received God’s grace should act toward others. Paul says we are to be subject to those in authority and obey them. Paul also tells us to be ready for every good work (Titus 3:1). The grace we have from God does not mean we have the right to do whatever we want. In fact, it teaches us to respect and obey those who are in a position of authority. As we continue, we see that it also teaches us how to live graciously toward all men. Titus 3:2 says, *“To speak evil of no one.”* It also says, *“We are to be peaceable, gentle, and we are to show all humility.”* Why should we conduct ourselves in such a manner? Let us continue to read chapter 3 and learn why.

First, notice what condition we were in before the kindness and love of God was shown to us. We were foolish, disobedient and deceived. We were serving various lusts and pleasures. We were living in malice and envy, and we were hateful and hating one another (Titus 3:3).

Living without God’s kindness and love, we were truly ungodly; we were sinners. However, in our text, we are told of our condition

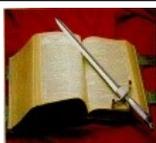
after God’s kindness and love. Titus 3:5 states that we are saved by His mercy. Not by anything we have done, but by the mercy God has shown to us. Notice though, it also says He saves us through the washing of regeneration or baptism. Paul concludes by saying we are heirs according to the hope of eternal life. We too have this hope of heaven, which is eternal life, because of the grace of God. This is true for us only if we follow the will of God.

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(From bro. Luther Martin’s book entitled: **“Information Concerning The Bible”**)

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