

## The “Eyes” Have It!

by Wayne Goff

The New Testament has much to say about the eyes. We tend to take them for granted until our eyesight becomes blurred, dimmed, or lost! Naturally, **spiritual eyesight** refers to the mind’s ability to grasp the truth which it *figuratively* sees. So let’s observe some of Jesus’ teaching on the subject.

### The Lamp Of The Body

*“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 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!”* (Matthew 6:22-23). Jesus teaches a spiritual lesson from a physical truth. Close your eyes and your body is dark. You cannot see anything. Open your eyes and your body is full of light. You can see and that ability gives your whole body a sense of comfort and well-being.

**The spiritual lesson:** the “eye” (mind) can be deceived into thinking darkness is light! You will not seek true light because you have been deceived. How “dark” (ignorant, unknowing) is the soul who thinks darkness is light! Be sure that your source of truth is God and the Bible! Anything else is darkness.

### Hypocritical Sight

*“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye”* (Matthew 7:3-5). Jesus graphically points out the **hypocrisy** of judging others but not oneself. Men do that because it is too painful to see their own faults, so they busy themselves pointing out the faults of others, even if those faults are relatively minor!

Paul rebukes the Jews for this very thing! *“Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. ... You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?”* (Romans 2:1, 21-22). It is easy to see the faults of others; it’s much harder to see our own. There is no deception like self-deception. Dear reader, have you examined yourself as you should?!

Elders, preachers and disciples are all taught to “*examine yourself*” first (see 2 Cor. 13:5; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 4:16). Having corrected their own problems, they are then ready to help others.

Paul states some important truths on the subject of “*judging*” in 1 Corinthians 4:3-5. Please take the time to read and consider what he says. The bottom line is this: we are not “*justified*” by our own judgment, or by the judgment of others – friend or foe. We are justified when God justifies us. Therefore be careful how you act.

### Willful Blindness

*“For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them”* (Matthew 13:15). The majority of the Jews in Jesus’ day **rejected** His message because they did not want to hear Him, believe, repent and change their lives. They were indifferently comfortable in their man-made religion (see 1 Pet. 1:18), even though it was a perversion of God’s law given to the Jews! So they just closed their eyes to Jesus.

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