

The Lamp of the Soul

by Wayne Goff

“The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness” (Lk. 11:34).

One’s physical eye is made to give your body light. It must be in good working order to accomplish its task. Those who have experienced loss of eyesight know how precious that gift is to the quality of life.

Obviously Jesus is making a *spiritual application*. The “eye” of the soul is the heart or mind. If that heart or mind is *honest, unprejudiced*, then it will gladly receive the spiritual light given to it. However, if that spiritual eye is bad, or *corrupt, prejudiced, wicked*, then there is no ability for true “light” to get into that heart.

The context of Luke 11 plainly shows why Jesus speaks of *bad eyesight*. Jesus cast out a mute demon from a man and such a miracle testified that He was sent from God (v. 14). Therefore, men should hear and obey Him. Unfortunately, some of the Pharisees *falsely accused* Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub (v. 15). Others asked for *another sign* from heaven (vv. 16, 29). In effect, they were rejecting the light which had been given them, and remained in darkness while justifying themselves.

“Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness” (Lk. 11:35). Indeed, the professed “light” of the Pharisees was **absolute darkness!** They rejected the message of God and stood condemned. Likewise today, there are those who go about proclaiming *evil* to be **good** and **good** to be *evil* (see Isaiah 5:20). They think that can subvert the moral universe of God by hook and by crook. They may get away with it for a little while, but God always overrides them in the end.

Some wicked unbelievers in Thessalonica accused Paul and his company of *turning the world upside down* (Acts 17:6)! In reality they turned it *right side up!* But these men had been so accustomed to a *morally upside down world* that they didn’t recognize right when they saw it!

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (Jn. 3:19).

Paul wrote of those *“whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Cor. 4:4).*

How Is It With You?

Dear reader, are you a *truth-seeker* and *truth-lover*? Are you honest, sincere, and open-minded? If so, then your spiritual eyesight is good. Of course, those who are **spiritually perverted** don’t realize their condition. They have so *prejudiced* their own minds in their favor and *against* everyone else that they are incapable of discerning right and wrong with an objective standard. They may have a *clear conscience*, but it is a *deluded* conscience.

REMEMBER THIS: eyes are *sensitive* organs which are very easily disturbed. A little grain of sand can do a lot of damage. A little sin tolerated can harm your spiritual eyesight!

Jesus is the *“true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world” (Jn. 1:9).* The eye, as an organ, does not produce light, but rather *discerns* and *reflects* it. It is not in man to direct his own steps anymore than it is in man to create his own light (see Jer. 10:23). Therefore, seek the Guide from above and set your affections on spiritual, eternal things (Col. 3:1-2).

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light” (Jn. 12:36). In time, darkness will overtake you, and you will not know where you are going (Jn. 12:36).

Self-examination is undoubtedly one of the most difficult things to do, and yet it is absolutely necessary to eternal salvation (2 Cor. 13:5). So how do you examine yourself to be sure you are right? use the “light” of God’s Word which is the *“mirror”* to your soul, and look honestly there (James 1:25).

