

Here's How It Works, IV

Romans 6:13

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

REVIEW

Sin is stoppable. If we choose to continue in sin, we may be lost, ignorant, or insincere. Our relationship to sin has changed. We can stand and say no. The time to act is now. The way to failure is presenting our parts to be used for bad purposes. The way to success is presenting ourselves to God and our parts for good purposes. The Bible is practical and specific. It is written so plain folks who understand plain English can know what to do. So, in this session let's take a part (eye) and present it.

Counsel: We must prayerfully yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit's searching and leading. We must ask Him to examine how we have misused or are misusing our eyes and to give us grace to confess our sins and declare what rigors we are willing to commit to now.

I. Examples of Misuse

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.” (Ps. 101:3)

“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.”

(Prov. 27:20)

A. Sensuality – The Bible describes men who have “eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin” (II Pet. 2:14) We may watch a program or look at a magazine or view a web site or take advantage of some event with carelessness that may reveal slavish shameful ulterior motives. We may assume nobody will know or it doesn't matter. We may really not want to give it up. Are we ready to say with Job, “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” (Job 31:1)

B. Materialism – Maybe our eyes are devoted too much to possessions like cars or houses, tools, fashion or beauty. We should ask, how much time should we devote to poring over and dreaming on things that will perish? See Ecc. 2:10-11. Compare Eve – Gen. 3:6 or Achan – Josh. 7:19.

C. Vanity – Webster defines vanity as having a lack of substance, a fruitless desire or endeavor, trifling labor that produces no good, empty pleasure or pursuit, idle show. The Bible says, “Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.” (Ps. 119:37) The idea here is not to be preoccupied by frivolous, man-centered, eternally insignificant pursuits that can detour people from more profitable thoughts and doings. Let people who don't have God in all their thoughts waste their time on foolish videos, meaningless goals, and pointless drivel, but let's not be in the audience watching it.

II. What We Should See – more and more it should be ...

A. The Lord – “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.” (Ps. 121:1-2) Moses endured, “as seeing him who is invisible.” (Heb. 11:27) David says, “I have set the Lord always before me.” (Ps. 16:8)

B. The Word – “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.” (Ps. 119:18)

C. The Spirit World – “Elisha prayed, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.” (II Ki. 6:17)

D. Souls – “Henceforth know we no man after the flesh.” (II Cor. 5:16) Jesus said, “Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)

E. The Future – “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (II Pet. 3:11-12)

F. Eternity – See Rev. 20:11ff.

III. There is much good to occupy our sight. What are we to behold?

“As for me, I will **behold** thy face in righteousness.” (Ps. 17:15)

“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to **behold** the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.” (Ps. 27:4)

“Come, **behold** the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.” (Ps. 46:8)

“If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, **behold**, thou art there.” (Ps. 139:8)

“**Behold** the fowls of the air.” (Mark 6:26)

“**Behold**, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21)

“**Behold** my hands and my feet.” (Luke 24:39)

“**Behold** the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

“Then said the Jews, **Behold** how he loved him!” (John 11:36)

“And Pilate saith unto them, **Behold** the man!” (John 19:5)

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; **behold**, all things are become new.” (II Cor. 5:17)

“**Behold**, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (II Cor. 6:2)

“**Behold**, the judge standeth before the door.” (James 5:9)

“**Behold**, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us.” (I John 3:1)

“**Behold**, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.” (Jude 1:14)

“**Behold**, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” (Rev. 1:7)

“**Behold**, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” (Rev. 1:18)

“**Behold**, I come quickly.” (Rev. 3:11)

“**Behold**, I stand at the door, and knock.” (Rev. 3:20)

“**Behold**, I make all things new.” (Rev. 21:5)

IV. Closing Scriptures

“The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.” (Luke 11:34)

“Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; **to open the blind eyes**” (Isa. 42:5-7a)

See also how Jesus presented Himself to Paul, as recounted in Acts 26:14-18a.

DISCUSSION

1. Have you obeyed Romans 6:13 in regard to your eyes? Describe.

2. Review the Scriptures that are quoted. Comment on ones that particularly grab you.