

The Lamp of the Soul

Matt. 6:22-23

Scripture: Proverbs 20:12 “The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The Lord has made both of them.”

Introduction:

I was at the Tulsa Workshop one year and listened to Joe Beam tell about his previous marriage struggles and ultimate divorce. If I recall correctly he talked about pornography and how this led him down an ungodly path and ultimately resulted in divorce. The good thing was that God had led him to repent and he and his wife are back together. But Joe talked about the images that he had looked at all those years ago and how they are still burned into his mind.

When I was little I roamed the woods like Robin Hood and me and my buddies built forts, climbed trees and swam in every hole of water that was near by. One of my friends had older brothers who had a fort that was built like a small building and it had a pad lock on it. My buddy got the key and took us into what I thought was the real domain of men.

But as I walked in I came face to face with wall paper that wasn't from Montgomery Ward's. Playboy pictures were all over the walls. As we grew up the boys at school started talking vulgar about girls and they begin bringing porn pictures to school. So wanting to fit in I got out moms Montgomery Catalog and tore out the pages that sell braziers and took them to school. When I got home my mom was waiting for me. I still don't know if she saw me do it or just happened to be shopping. But she wore me out.Thank God for godly mothers.

Growing up this thing continued with a lot of the guys I knew. They put pictures up in their lockers, on their tool boxes in the garage and boy at college it was nothing but pure filth.

Our society seems to be consumed with the lure of sex. Hollywood and fashion companies know very well that sex sells and they placard it in front of us every day. I was driving through Kansas City and I saw billboard after billboard with images advertising men's clubs and girly bars.

In the 1990's our government mandated that televisions be made with v-chips to control the amount of violence children had access to. They have also added parental locks for controlling what children see in regard to sexual things.

Transitional Statement:

God made us with a v-chip of sorts also.

Read: Matthew 6:22-23 *“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”*

Lesson:

I. We have control over our eyes

A. We can't let darkness in

B. King David failed to control what he was looking at (2 Samuel 11)

1. This sin snow balled to lying and even murder...

2. Lust is at the root of it all

James 1:13-15

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

3. King David had many regrets about it.

Psalms 51:1-4

1 A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

*2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.*

*3 For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.*

*4 Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge.*

4. And if left unattended would have spiritual killed David.

C. Televisions can be good in many ways

1. Discovery channel, History channel, Weather channel, and many more

2. But it can also be a pipe line from Hell.

- D. The internet has made pornography as easy as the click of a button, and even easier with connections to nearly every search topic.
- E. Plants don't grow in darkness and neither do we.

II. We must program our eyes

- A. We must read the instructions.
 - 1. I find it fun sometimes to assemble something without instructions...it is a challenge.
- B. But this is a matter of life and death and we must read the instructions
 - 1. Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path."
- C. We must focus our minds
 - 1. Colossians 3:1-2 "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"
 - 2. Hebrews 12:2 "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
- D. We must be consistent not willing to waver
- E. What we allow our eyes to see is a choice
 - 1. And we have responsibility in regards to it.

III. We must make a covenant with our eyes.

- A. Job 31:1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?"
- B. A covenant is a binding agreement with a promise
- C. We need to stand looking into the mirror and make an agreement with ourselves and with God that we will look away from all ungodliness.
- D. God is light and in Him is no darkness (1 John 1:5) and we are made in His image (Genesis 1:26) to be like Him.

Conclusion:

Jesus declares us to be the light of the world Matthew 5:14

And if the eye is clear the whole body will be full of light. Matthew 6:22

Be careful little eyes what you see !