

The Old Paths

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“Don’t Believe Your Eyes!”

Jarrold 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 on television and in the movies 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 Sa-

tan 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)?

Is One Just As Good As Another?

- ♦ When you were seeking a wife, was one just as good as another?
- ♦ When the doctor prescribed a dose of medicine, was one just as good as another?
- ♦ When you paid the cashier, was one amount just as good as another?
- ♦ When the realtor handed you the keys to your new house, was one house just as good as another?
- ♦ When you picked up your child at school, was one child just as good as another?

Obviously, the answer to all these questions is “no.” We would never say that one child, medicine, house, or spouse is as good as another. Yet, many will say, “One church is as good as another.” Why is this?

Christ shed His blood for His church (Acts 20:28; Matt. 16:18). How could another church be “just as good” as His? When one belongs to another church than his, it is not “as good as” His church!

Let us beware of all who say that one church is “just as good” as another. The Lord did not teach this (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Rom. 16:16)!!

Kids' Kolumn

Jarrod Jacobs

How many times have we been told by our parents not to lie? As children, we are raised not to be dishonest, because this is what the Bible teaches (Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25). When we think about lying, lying can take different forms. It is not only speaking an untruth, but it also occurs when we attempt to mislead people. For example, Joseph's brothers lied to their father Jacob when they intentionally misled him and made him think Joseph was dead (Gen. 37:31-32). They did not say, “Joseph was attacked by a wild animal.” Yet, their actions led their father to believe it. Their action was dishonest. It was a lie! Have you been guilty of misleading your parents, siblings, or others by allowing them to believe something that was not true when you knew the truth?

Another way people lie is when they take credit for something that is not theirs. For example, if we cheat on a test, taking answers from another and claiming them as our own, then this is a lie, too!

Please do not lie; speak the truth (Eph. 4:25; Prov. 8:7, 12:17).

God's way is the best way. Remember this as you obey God and your parents this week. (Eph. 6:1-3)



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

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Parents' Paragraphs

Jarrod Jacobs

Ephesians 6:4 has something to say about fathers and their responsibilities to their children. It reads, “*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4). Within this verse, we see things necessary for proper child-rearing. In the first half of the verse it tells fathers to not provoke your children “*to wrath.*” Colossians 3:21 says “*anger.*” The point is, do not discourage your children through your anger, undue punishment, or mere fault-finding. Fathers, are we guilty of this? Yes, there is a time for needed punishment when a child disobeys (Prov. 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17). There is also such a thing as a father who acts and speaks out in anger toward his children (I Sam. 20:30). May the former be true of all fathers, never the latter!

Our children's precious souls rest in our hands for a very short time. Let us be aware of our great responsibilities and not be selfish with our time or interests. In the next issue, I want us to continue to study this important verse as we parents examine our child-rearing habits.

Parents, let us learn from the example of Abraham (Gen. 18:19).

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