

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 3 ♦ Issue 48 ♦ November 27, 2022

SOME EYES IN THE BIBLE

Larry R. Ping II

Eyes appear in every corner of the Bible. They help to describe and define individuals. What sort of eyes do you have? Consider.

1) PLEASURE-SEEKING EYES. Eve was in possession of just these sort (Gen. 3:6). The devil uses this avenue of temptation quite well (I Jn. 2:16). Others in God’s Word were led astray by pleasure-seeking eyes, such as Achan (Josh. 7:21) and David (II Sam. 11:2).

2) CONSUMED EYES. A failure to listen to God and His law would result in “*terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes*” (Lev. 26:16). May we always heed the Savior’s command, “*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear*” (Matt. 11:15).

3) LAW-FILLED EYES. Regarding His law, God said it should be as “*frontlets between thine eyes*” (Deut. 6:8). This is the equivalent of the Psalmist’s

words in Psalm 1:2, “*But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*” This requires us to read God’s Word (Eph. 3:4), study God’s Word (II Tim. 2:15) and be as Jesus and “*do and teach*” (Acts 1:1).

4) SELF-RIGHTEOUS EYES. Twice, in the book of Judges, it states “*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (Jdg. 17:6; Jdg. 21:25). This activity resulted in the sin cycle notated in Jdg. 2:16-19. The same cycle occurs today for the same reason, men doing that which is right in their own eyes, which leads to the “*ways of death*” (Prov. 14:12; Prov. 16:25).

5) GRACE-FILLED EYES. Ruth wondered aloud to Boaz “*Why have I found grace in thy eyes*” (Ruth 2:10). Boaz had shown the young widow favor, and was thankful for it. Noah “*found grace in the eyes of the Lord*” (Gen. 6:8). We, too, are offered this saving grace (Eph. 2:5). All men have access to it (Tit. 2:11), but few have accessed it “*by faith*” (Rom. 5:2; Eph.

2:8). We certainly should extend grace to others, and are overwhelmingly thankful God has shed it upon us (Neh. 9:31).

6) COVENANT-MAKING EYES. Job uttered “*I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid*” (Job. 31:1)? This man of faith and endurance made an agreement with his eyes not to look lustily upon women. The Lord similarly said, “*That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*” (Matt. 5:28). Sounds like a great pact, does it not?

7) FASTENED-ON-JESUS EYES. In the synagogue, on the Sabbath, Jesus read from Isa. 61:1-2. Once finished, the Bible records “*the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him*” (Lk. 4:20). May our eyes be fixed firmly on the Lord, knowing He is “*the Shepherd and Bishop*” of our souls (I Pet. 2:25). What say ye?

WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS “AND NOT”

Larry R. Ping II

The phrase “and not” exists 78 times in the New Testament. From it we can glean many wonderful lessons. Would you consider these?

1) **“THEN JOSEPH HER HUSBAND, BEING A JUST MAN, AND NOT WILLING TO MAKE HER A PUBLIC EXAMPLE, WAS MINDED TO PUT HER AWAY PRIVILY”** (Matt. 1:19). The world needs more men like Jesus’ earthly father, who, even in a challenging circumstance, opted to be kind, generous and fair (Micah 6:8).

2) **“AND IF THY RIGHT EYE OFFEND THEE, PLUCK IT OUT, AND CAST IT FROM THEE: FOR IT IS PROFITABLE FOR THEE THAT ONE OF THY MEMBERS SHOULD PERISH, AND NOT THAT THY WHOLE BODY SHOULD BE CAST INTO HELL”** (Matt. 5:29). Jesus calls for superior discipline with our eyes, through which the devil works expertly (I Jn. 2:16).

3) **“ARE NOT FIVE SPARROWS SOLD FOR TWO FARTHING, AND NOT ONE OF THEM IS FORGOTTEN BEFORE GOD”** (Lk. 12:6)?

Oh, how much God loves and cares for us, His creation (Rom. 5:8)!

4) **“AND HE SPAKE A PARABLE UNTO THEM TO THIS END, THAT MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY, AND NOT TO FAINT”** (Lk. 18:1). Prayer is a crucial cog in our ability to persevere, and not faint (I Thess. 5:17; Php. 4:6). Are you praying daily?

5) **“WE THEN THAT ARE STRONG OUGHT TO BEAR THE INFIRMITIES OF THE WEAK, AND NOT TO PLEASE OURSELVES”** (Rom. 15:1). May we live in such a way we strive to do good for and help others (Php. 2:1-8).

6) **“DARE ANY OF YOU, HAVING A MATTER AGAINST ANOTHER, GO TO THE LAW BEFORE THE UNJUST, AND NOT BEFORE THE SAINTS”** (I Cor. 6:1)? Disagreements happen between members of God’s family. May we learn to resolve them with each other (Matt. 5:23-24).

7) **“KNOWING THAT A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, BUT BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST, EVEN**

WE HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST, AND NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW; FOR BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED” (Gal. 2:16). The Law of Moses is no longer in effect. Christ was the end of it (Rom. 10:4; Col. 2:14).

8) **“BUT IT IS GOOD TO BE ZEALOUSLY AFFECTED ALWAYS IN A GOOD THING, AND NOT ONLY WHEN I AM PRESENT WITH YOU”** (Gal. 4:18). We must always have a desire and zeal for God, no matter where we may be and no matter with whom we may be (Titus 2:14).

9) **“BEWARE LEST ANY MAN SPOIL YOU THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND VAIN DECEIT, AFTER THE TRADITION OF MEN, AFTER THE RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD, AND NOT AFTER CHRIST”** (Col. 2:8). May we be very careful to nourish ourselves through the sound words in God’s book (I Tim. 4:6). May we “hunger” and “thirst” after God’s righteousness (Matt. 5:6).

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288

Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm