

## THE LOOK OF GOD

When we think of God, we naturally wonder if He is there, if He sees us or knows us. In our sin, we hope He doesn't. And yet we can't help but think, and know, deep down- "If He is God, He must see all things."

There was an experiment I heard about, of an 'honesty box', for putting money in when taking goods. When a picture of two eyes were placed above it, people were more inclined, subconsciously, to put money in it than when there were no eyes 'looking'.

People act differently if they think they're being watched, more morally, they're less inclined to litter for example. Criminals like to do their crimes when no one's watching, or in the dark. Dummy security cameras make a difference.

But people try to suppress this innate knowledge of God watching. They hold down the truth in unrighteousness.

If people convince themselves God doesn't see or even exist, then they feel free to sin and are inclined to be much worse people morally. But the truth is they aren't free at all and are just kidding themselves.

Here's some verses showing men do this and what God thinks of it.

Psalm 94.7

How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. **Yet they say, The LORD shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.**

Understand, ye brutish among the people: and ye fools, when will ye be wise? He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know? The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.

Eze8.12

(When God showed His prophet what the false religious people did in the secret of their rooms, He said this)

Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? **for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.**

Eze 9.9

Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, **The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not**

Psalm10.11

He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; **he will never see it.**

The lesson is simple and clear

In our natural inclination we can deceive ourselves into thinking God doesn't see or understand us, or even care. In our sin, we vainly hope that's true so we can be free to sin and be free of judgement. But that sort of freedom is the freedom of wandering lost in a desert without water! Or the freedom of a homeless man- free from the responsibility of a job and payments and warmth and friends and family- who would want that freedom? That's a freedom that enslaves!

Just because a man shuts his eyes to God, it doesn't change the fact that God is there and sees all things. It's like a man who sticks his head under a bucket to hide from a policeman!

The plain truth is- God does see us clearly all the time, and if we think otherwise then we're in error, and deceive ourselves to our own hurt.

We can prove from Scripture God sees all things at all times in all places and never forgets what He sees. This is clear from what He tells us in His Word.

God sees everything

Job 28.24

**For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;**

Prov 15.3

**The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.**

Ezek1.18

(This describes the eyes on God's providential wheels of the rolling events of time.)

As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; **and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.** (In all directions North South East and West, or 3 dimensions plus the spiritual)

2 Chron 16.9

**For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth**

Psalms 33.13

**The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.**

Heb 4.13

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

Jer 23.24

**Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him?** saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Job34.21-22

**For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.**

Matt6.4

That thine alms may be in secret: and **thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.**

Psalm 102.19

**For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary;** from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

Revelation 20.12

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: **and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books,** according to their works.

The lesson is simple and clear

Nothing can be hidden from God, He is Omniscient- All knowing.

So, what does He look for specifically?

Jer16.17

**For mine eyes are upon all their ways:** they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes

1 Sam 16.7

The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

Psalm 53.2

God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, **to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.** Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

The lesson is simple and clear

He looks for those that seek Him, for righteousness and holiness but finds none.

God looks at individuals because He seeks to save some of them.

Luke 19.5 Zacheus

And when Jesus came to the place, **he looked up, and saw him,** and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house

Luke 22.61 Peter

as he spake, the cock crew. **And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.** And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

John 1.48 Nathanael

An Israelite indeed in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, **I saw thee.**

(Physically at that time the Lord wasn't any where near Nathanael)

The lesson is simple and clear

If God sees us personally, then we must come before Him personally. Either in the prayer of faith and communion, or, in rebellion, kicking and screaming on judgement day.

Let's look more closely at the look to Peter just before Calvary

"**And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.**" God can turn and look at us like this.

Note, if God turns to look at us, then He had His back to us as a stranger would, but now he regards us with a look. But what is this look? Well,

- 1.It's a personal look, He can look at YOU personally.
- 2.A look of knowledge, He understands who you are.
- 3.A look of justice, of condemnation, He judges you and counts you guilty.
- 4...of pity and compassion, He, nevertheless, cares for you.
- 5...of love, a love that shows itself in action, action to save you from your sins.
- 6...of mercy, He desires to forgive you.
- 7...that speaks- it says "remember your sin","look at Me and what I'm going to do for you".

What did He go on to do?

Well, of course, you're all familiar with Calvary.

You've been taught in Sunday School and Bible class about it haven't you. But, do you really understand it? Now you're in College Class, lets push you a little further.

Let me ask you a question:

We are taught in Scripture that Christ made an ATONEMENT for sin (a reconciliation of two parties) on the cross of Calvary. What exactly was the nature of this this Atonement?

Here's a multiple choice to make it easier for you. The following are all accepted theories, but which is correct?;

- A. Ransom Theory- Christ's death was a ransom paid to Satan to purchase captive man from Satan's claims.
- B. Example Theory- Christ's death provided an example of faith and obedience to inspire man to be obedient.
- C. Moral Influence Theory- Christ's death demonstrated God's love, which causes man's heart to soften and repent.
- D. Commercial Theory- Christ's death brought infinite honour to God. So God gave Christ a reward which he did not need, and Christ passed it on to man.
- E. Governmental Theory- Christ's death demonstrates God's high regard for his law. It shows God's attitude toward sin. Through Christ's death God has a rationale to forgive the sins of those who repent and accept Christ's substitutionary death.

Hmm...,

Actually it's none of them.

If you're not a Christian, I don't blame you for not knowing. But if you are a Christian you should know what you believe! And never underestimate Soteriology or the study of salvation. Value it, never think it's simple, you'll be studying it til your dying day believe me!

The answer is this;

F. Penal Substitution Theory- Christ's death was a vicarious (substitutionary) sacrifice that satisfied the demands of God's justice upon sin, paying the penalty of man's sin, bringing forgiveness, imputing righteousness, and reconciling man to God.

The lesson is not simple but I hope I've made it clear at least.

Back to the Look of God, more specifically, the look of 'holiness' in the eyes of Christ in Revelation 1.14

-- His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; **and his eyes were as a flame of fire;**

The lesson is simple and clear

Know God is holy, and we are not. Know He sees you to your core, and knows you better than you know yourself. His eyes will burn through you if you are in the least impure. We must be holy because God is Holy. This can only become a reality through God Himself cleansing us from our sin and corruption.

Lastly, The look of Salvation

Psalms 35.17

**Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul**

Lam 3.50 (pivotal chapter)

Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens. We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned. Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied. Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through. Thou hast made us as the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people. All our enemies have opened their mouths against us. Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction. Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people. Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission, **Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven.** Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city. Mine

enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause. They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me. Waters flowed over mine head; then I said, I am cut off. I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon. Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry. Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not. O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.

Psalm 33.18

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death,

The lesson is simple and clear.

Fear God, call on Him who sees you, for a rescue for your soul. Hope in His mercy, in His redemption (His paying the price for you) by making that atonement and find assurance in His faithful promise to save all who come to Him like that. If His eye is upon you in mercy, then it is mercy you shall have, and many more abundant blessings of salvation.

Say "Look upon me Lord, regard my poor condition. I come as I am in all my sin because nothing is hidden before your eyes. Forgive me because of the Redeemer Christ Jesus." All a man can do is call upon God in faith. It may be that someone listening to this can call upon God like that. Then there is hope for that man, and he should do so, and wait to see what God will do in reply. His all seeing gaze is like the ultimate security camera catching us in the act. But, unlike a camera which can't feel and doesn't care, when God sees you call upon Him, He'll come to your rescue. He always has done and always will.