**"THE BEAUTY OF HAVING A SINGLE EYE** **"**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. [**Ec 5:10-16**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ec%205.10-16),***10He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.11When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?12The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.13There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.14But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.15As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.16And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?***

In these scriptures Solomon described the problem with earthly treasures...through them we can understand that….

1. Money, treasures, luxury and abundance do not truly satisfy a person’s

 life!!

 b. The abundance of the rich prevents good sleep, and often hurts the

 owner. Rich people are never truly happy!!! They worry much!!

 c. Riches perish through misfortune, and cannot be taken with us when

 we die!

1. There is a portion in the words of Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount in which he made the following statement….**THAT STRENGTHENS AND BACKS UP WHAT SOLOMON SAID…**.and this is my backdrop scriptures for this message…..

 **[Mt 6:19-21](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.19-21%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)*, 19Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:******20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:21******For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

Jesus commands us to lay up treasure **not** on earth, but in heaven... Not that it is wrong to have earthly treasures per se, but our focus should mainly be on laying up treasures in heaven!!

HERE’S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT concerning the earthly treasures and goods that we accumulate here on earth!!!

**MANY PEOPLE SPEND ALL THEIR LIFE AND HEALTH TRYING TO GAIN RICHES AND WEALTH, THEN SPEND ALL THEIR RICHES AND WEALTH THEY’VE GAINED TO REGAIN THEIR HEALTH!!**

**I CONSIDER THIS A FOOLS TREASURE!!!**

***20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

So then the question arises… how then do we lay up treasure in heaven?

In [**Mt 6:22-24**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.19-24), Jesus gave a parable for us to understand but few do...

***22The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.23But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!24No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***

***Beloved in order to fully understand the “laying of treasure in heaven” we must first understand what “This Single Eye”is all about that Jesus speaks of , please allow me to break it all down that we may all understand what He was communicating through His words……***

***I named this message***

 ***…”THE BEAUTY OF A SINGLE EYE”***

1. *The eye*, as an organ, was placed in the body to guide and direct us in all areas of our lives when the *eye be single*, it helps the soul of man to make true and right judgments, and to discern things that differ, especially in the great concern of **“*laying up the treasures in heaven*,**” because it will rightly guide the affections and actions, which we will all be *full of the light* of grace and comfort!! Thus we will set the flow for the glow wherever we go!!!
2. *but if this eye be evil* and corrupt, and instead of leading the inferior powers within us, we will be making erroneous and misinformed decisions, then the heart and life will be *full of darkness*, and the greater the darkness the greater the corrupted and the whole manner of life will be in many individuals!!!
3. They that *will not understand*, are said to *walk on in darkness*, The bible says……

[Ps. 82:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ps.82.5). ***5They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.***

It is sad when the spirit of a man, which should be “*the candle of the Lord*,” reaches a point where it lives out the scripture….**Hosea 4:6 My people are  *destroyed for a lack of knowledge!!!***

*Not only this but, It* is a fatal thing, when a Christian reaches a level where it starts to call ***evil good and good evil*** therefore it should concern us to understand things right, in order for this to happen we must get our eyes anointed with eye-salve.

***Allow me to explain “The Single Eye”….in a deeper understanding…..***

3. By *the eye* we set our life in motion before us, the goals we shoot at, the places we go to, things we see we keep them in view, and we direct our motions accordingly; in everything we do in religion; there is something or other that we have our *eye on*; now ***if our eye be single***, if we aim honestly, fix right ends, and move rightly towards them, our aim will be pure and only at the glory of God, our aim will be to seek his honor and favour, and direct all entirely to him, when we get this in order…. then***…”THE BEAUTY OF A SINGLE EYE” will be in action!!!***

Paul said, **“*To me to live is Christ”***; and if we are also at this point, *the whole body will be full of light*, all our actions will be accurate and gracious, pleasing to God and comfortable to ourselves and others; ***but if this eye be evil***,

Here is what Jesus said…. ***If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! “HOW GREAT IS THAT DARKNESS”!!!!***

***It’s sad but many preachers, teachers, some who call themselves apostles live inside a cloud of darkness because*** instead of aiming only at the glory of God, and their acceptance with him, they look aside at the applause and acceptance of men, and while they profess to honour God, they only strive to honour themselves, and seek their own things under color of *seeking the things of Christ*, their whole life is perverse and unsteady, and the foundations will be out of course, there can be nothing but *confusion and every evil work* will be at the center of these ministers life because the **“eye is evil”.**

*If the light that is in thee be* not only dim, but *darkness* itself, it is a fundamental error, and very destructive to all that follows. The end specifies the action. It is of most importance in religion, that we be right in our aims, and make *eternal things*, not *temporal things*, our scope.

 [2 Cor. 4:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2Cor.4.18)***. 18While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

***A writer once wrote…..and I’ll quote…***

The hypocrite is like the waterman, that looks one way and rows another; the true Christian is like the traveler, that has his journey’s end in his eye. The hypocrite soars like the vulture, with his eye upon the prey below, which he is ready to come down to when he has the right opportunity; the true Christian soars like an eagle, and goes higher and higher, forgetting the things that are beneath.

Therefore we must take heed of hypocrisy and worldly-mindedness in choosing the master we serve, [Matt. 6:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.6.24). ***No man can serve two masters*. Serving *two masters*** is totally contrary to *the* **single eye**; for *the eye* will be to the master’s hand, [Ps. 123:1, 2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ps.123.1,Ps.123.2). ***Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.*** Our Lord Jesus here exposes the cheat which those put upon their own souls, who think to divide between God and the world, to have a *treasure on earth*, and a *treasure in heaven* too, to please God and please men too. Why not? says the hypocrite; it is good to have two strings to one’s bow.

***Beloved when “ our eye is single” then we can safely lay-up treasures in heaven!!***

**I. REASONS TO LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN**

 **A. FIRST OF ALL JESUS SAID, TREASURES ON EARTH ARE INSECURE...**

 1. Moth and rust destroy in other words…(**material things are**

 **perishable)**

 2. Thieves break in and steal **(material things are subject to**

 **theft) My wife and I had an apt and we left it to the care of a family member while we went away, but to our surprise our goods were broken into and stolen, believe me it’s not a good feeling!!!**

 3. There is also the loss due to inflation, stock devaluation,

 bankruptcies, faulty investments, miscalculations, **bad advice FROM THE WRONG PEOPLE !!**

1. **Then there are hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, fire!!!**

 **B. ON THE OTHER HAND TREASURE IN HEAVEN IS SECURE...**

 1. Neither moth nor rust destroys (our treasures are imperishable)

[***1Pe 1:3-4***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%201.3-4)***3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,4To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,***

 2. Thieves cannot break in and steal (our treasures are securely

 guarded).

[***1Pe 3:5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%203.4-5)***5Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

 **C. OUR TREASURE IS WHERE OUR HEART WILL BE...**

 1. That is, where our affections, our hopes, our dreams will be

 2. If our treasure is on earth, our hearts will experience much

 disappointment

 a. As things for which you have affection decay or are one day

 destroyed by fire

 b. As things in which you find your primary joy are suddenly

 gone through things like theft

 3. If our treasure is in heaven, our hearts will not suffer great

 disappointments

 a. For our treasure is "incorruptible, undefiled, and does not

 fade away"

 b. Nothing can take our treasure away from us, for it is:

 1) "reserved in heaven for you"

 2) "kept by the power of God through faith"

 4. Whatever happens on earth will not devastate us! - e.g., **He 10:**

 **32-34**

1. When these words are taken to heart and applied…..**THE EYE THEN BECOMES SINGLE…**

 a. The storms of life will not overwhelm us

 b. Because we've built our foundation upon the words of Jesus!

[***Mt 7:24-27***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.24-27)***24Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:27And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.***

 **D. TO KEEP OUR EYE GOOD...WE’LL NEED TO UNDERSTAND A FEW THINGS….**

 1. Understanding the metaphor used by Jesus:

 a. The "body" likely represents the soul or inner man

 b. The "eye" likely represents the gaze of the soul or the

 heart of man

 e. In the Scriptures, the expression "evil eye" is used to mean

 "envious, covetous" - cf. [**Pr 23:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%2023.6)**;** [**Mt 20:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2020.15)**;** [**Mk 7:22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%207.22)

 a. If the heart or gaze of the soul be "good" ("single" in its

 love for the things of God), then one is filled with "light" **A**

 **LIGHT THAT PROMOTES (goodness, righteousness, and truth)**

 [**Ep 5:8-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.8-10)**…*8For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:9(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)10Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.***

 b. If the heart or gaze of the soul be **"evil"** (full of envy, and

 covetousness), then that means that one's soul is filled with

 "darkness"(selfishness, wickedness, and falsehood)!

 3. The warning that Jesus is giving his children is this:

 a. To guard what goes in your **SINGLE EYE!!!**

 1) what you allow your eyes to dwell upon is of utmost importance

 2) Remember, there is such a thing as….

 "**the lusts of the eyes"** (i.e., materialism)

 b. He reminds believers everywhere To be rich toward God, free from

 covetousness - [**Lk 12:13-21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2012.13-21)

1. Note Jesus' warning –

[***Lk 12:15***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2012.15)***15And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***

1. Note His conclusion –

[**Lk 12:21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2012.21)**…*21So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.***

 4. Paul likewise warns of the danger of materialism, or

 covetousness

1. Those who desire to be rich………… fall –

[***1Ti 6:9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%206.9)***9But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.***

***DRIVES THEM WHERE?***

 1) Into snares and temptations

 2) Into many foolish and harmful lusts

 3) To drown in destruction and perdition

 b. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil - [**1Ti 6:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%206.10)

 1) From which some have strayed from the faith in their

 greediness

1. From which some have pierced themselves with many sorrows

**When*””THE BEAUTY OF A SINGLE EYE” is present in us our focus will be….***

 **E. TO MAKE GOD OUR MASTER...**

 1. No one can serve two masters - [**Mt 6:24**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.24)

 a. A master by definition demands "***total loyalty"***, for we are

 unable to please two masters at the same time.

 a. When wealth is coveted, and becomes the priority in our

 lives, it becomes a god - cf. [**Ep 5:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.5)**;** [**Col 3:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.5)

 b. So the choice becomes one as to whether we shall worship the

 One True God, or be "idolaters" following after a false god!

 3. Choose to serve God!

 a. As Jesus would later say, **"Seek first the kingdom of God"**

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[**Mt 6:33**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.33) **HERE IS WHERE “THE BEAUTY OF A SINGLE EYE” BEGINS.**

 b. Do this, and God becomes our Master

 c. Since we can't serve two masters, this effectively

 eliminates Mammon from being our "god"!

[For such reasons, Jesus tells us **why** to lay up in treasure in heaven.

Jesus also tells us **how** to lay up treasure in heaven...]

**II. HOW TO LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN**

 **A. BY GIVING TO THE POOR...**

 1. Jesus connected giving to the poor with laying up treasure on

 two occasions

1. **To His disciples** –

[**Lk 12:32-33**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2012.32-33)**…*32Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.33Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.***

**To a rich ruler** - 18And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?19And Jesus said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.20Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.21And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up**.22Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, **Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.**23And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.24And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!25For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.**26And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?27And he said, **The things which are impossible with men are possible with God**.

[**Lk 18:18-27**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2018.18-27) **…..but walked away saddened at His saying because he had great possessions….rather great possesions had HIM!!!**

**THIS MAN NEVER UNDERSTOOD “THE BEAUTY OF A SINGLE EYE”**

 2. Paul also connected sharing one's wealth with laying up

 treasure in heaven - [**1Ti 6:17-19**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%206.17-19)

 a. To be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share

 b. Storing up a good foundation for the time to come

 c. To lay hold on eternal life

 **B. BELOVED ETERNAL LIFE CANNOT BE PURCHASED...**

 1. Salvation is by grace through faith, not of works - [**Ep 2:8-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%202.8-9)**;**

[**Tit 3:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Tit%203.5)

 a. We are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ - **1Pe 1:**

 **18-19**

 b. And as children of God we are heirs and joint-heirs with Christ,

 recipients of every spiritual blessing in Christ - **Ro 8:**

 **16-17;** [**Ep 1:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%201.3)

 2. But giving to the poor helps us to lay hold on eternal life

 a. By freeing our hearts from covetousness (idolatry) - cf.

[**Ep 5:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%205.5)

 b. By reminding us when our true reward will be received - cf.

 [**Lk 14:12-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2014.12-14)

**CONCLUSION**

 a. God wants us to enjoy what we have - [**1Ti 6:17c**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%206.17c)**;** cf. [**Ec 5:18-20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ec%205.18-20)

 b. Yet proper enjoyment requires a heart for giving - cf. [**Ac 20:35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2020.35)

2. Thus we are to work with our hands...

 a. Not just to provide for our families - [**1 Tim 5:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Tim%205.8)

 b. But also for others in need - [**Ep 4:28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%204.28)

3. Are we laying up treasure in heaven...?

 a. Jesus told us **why**

 b. Jesus (and Paul) also told us **how**

Have you given much thought as to how you can be rich in good works,

ready to give, willing to share? Store up a good foundation for the

time to come, and lay hold on eternal life...!

ALL THIS CAN ONLY COME BY …

**"THE BEAUTY OF HAVING A SINGLE EYE** **"**