

A COVENANT WITH OUR EYES

Michael Pickford


Did you know we can make a covenant with our eyes? Job did! He said in Job 31:1...

“I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”

The idea is not to simply look at a young woman, but to look at her with desire and lust in our hearts. Job determined not to even look if his purpose was to lust. Oh how we need to make such a covenant!

Jesus taught, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:28).

Satan has certainly provided many avenues for us to lust. Let’s be careful with our TV programs, movies, and computers. Let’s diligently strive to “Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust” (Romans 13:14).

On the other side of this coin, let’s be careful to cloth ourselves properly and modestly in all public situations lest we cause other to lust and stumble (Matthew 18:6). 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don’t hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men’s Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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THE FAITH

Michael Pickford

The idea of faith is used in the New Testament in both the subjective and the objective sense. Subjectively, it speaks of our inner faith, our personal belief. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Objectively, it is used as a synonym for the Gospel, “The faith.” It is this latter usage we want to consider here as we explore three important concepts related to “The faith.”

Entrance. If we are to have any hope of eternal life in heaven, we must be in the faith. We must enter into it. Paul spoke of being “In the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Since the faith is the Gospel (Gal. 1:23; Rom. 1:15), we enter into it through baptism, obedience to the Gospel. We are told of some priests who “were obedient to the faith.” They obeyed the faith, the Gospel. They were baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27) where salvation is (2 Timothy 2:10). Have you entered the faith through baptism?

Examination. Paul told Christians to “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves...” (2 Corinthians 13:5). He goes on in that verse to suggest that we could become disqualified. We can leave the faith and lose our souls. The examination Paul spoke of must be a daily ongoing practice. The standard we use for this examination is the faith, the Gospel. We read the Bible daily and examine our lives in its light, making corrections where we see the need. We will be judged by the words of Christ on the last day. This will determine our eternal destiny, whether heaven or hell. Are you examining yourself daily by comparing your life to the New Testament?

Evangelization. Paul wrote of some in the churches of Christ in Judea, “But they were hearing only, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy” (Galatians 1:23). Paul preached “The faith.” This speaks of evangelization. God does not desire that all become preachers and teachers in the sense of pulpit preaching and public bible class teaching (James 3:1), but God does desire that all of us get involved in what has been termed “Personal evangelism.” We try to share the Gospel with others (Co-workers, neighbors, friends, family, etc.). Those who were scattered from Jerusalem “Went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). We share the faith both through silence and speaking. We share through our example of Godly living, and by trying to teach others with words. 

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LUSTING WITH THE STARS

Mike Thomas

One of the more popular shows on television is *Dancing With The Stars*. I haven't seen it, but from what I gather it is a show that has celebrities competing against one another in a dance contest. There are many people, both young and old alike, who follow the show faithfully.

The reason I haven't watched the show is because of the advertisements I have seen for it. The women dancers, based on the commercials, are scantily clad while moving around in a provocative manner. They have on short, revealing dresses that expose their back, legs, and more (I'm sure) while spinning around. I have no doubt that Christians who watch the show say they are able to dismiss those images and just watch the competition itself. Maybe I'll have those superhuman abilities some day. But as of yet, I am still human and must be careful to protect myself and my family against thought-provoking activities.

God tells us to avoid things that are lewd and licentious in nature (Rom. 13:13); to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts*" (v. 14). This means we are to avoid things that intentionally stimulate lust both in ourselves and in others. How can this not include provocative dance, cheerleader uniforms, and modern swimwear at public beaches? Can it be said that we are making every provision to avoid lust by engaging in these things?

The fact is, good friends, it is our responsibility to protect our heart from its own lusts, which are directly influenced by the things we see and hear (Gen. 3:6; 2 Sam. 11:2). If anything tempts us to sin or causes others to lust, we are to cut it off and avoid it all together, no matter how difficult. Jesus warned, "*It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire*" (Matt. 18:9). A modern application would read, "It is better for you to miss out on certain television shows, than to watch those shows and lose your eternal soul." -

**"WOE TO THOSE WHO CALL EVIL
GOOD, AND GOOD EVIL;
WHO PUT DARKNESS FOR LIGHT,
AND LIGHT FOR DARKNESS;
WHO PUT BITTER FOR SWEET,
AND SWEET FOR BITTER"**

- Isaiah 5:20

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Title: _____

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Ben Green
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: Psalm 119:1-8
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Michael Pickford
 - Serve.....Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Ben Green

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

Thank You For Serving!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*