

Your Window

14 - Living the Simple Gospel
Church on the Park | Sunday, 19 March 2017

Text: Philippians 1:21-26

Theme: God has given you windows into the world; keep your windows clean.

Intro: Many years ago I wondered why anybody would long to go to heaven. I thought: “Why go to heaven? I want to experience life now. I want to get married, start another business and have kids. I want to experience life.” But then something happened. I was in prayer one day, alone in my parent’s house. While I prayed, the glory of God came down and I tasted heaven. I was filled with unspeakable joy and I saw Jesus and heaven with the eyes of my heart. From then on I knew why Jesus’ return, and heaven, was our great hope. In our passage, Paul shares his heart’s desire—to depart—and yet, there’s more.

1) Your window of life is open for a short period, but has an eternal purpose (Phil. 1:21-26).

- Your **life** on earth is a **window**. It’s in a **specific place** for a **specific time**.
 - Don’t live with your **window shut** and you **curtains drawn**.
 - **Life** is a **gift** from God, an **opportunity** that can **never be given again**.
- You see, I didn’t **just hear** or **read** about **God’s glory**, I **tasted** God’s glory.
 - **Tasting** God’s glory, **delivered** me from **loving this world** which will one day be **consumed** with fire. But it also, gave me **another love** for this world, a **different love**.
 - It was a **love** that the people of this world would **know Jesus** and that the Kingdom of **heaven** would **invade earth**.
 - In our passage this morning we see **Paul’s tension**—he wants to go to be with Jesus, but he also God’s people to progress. In the end, Paul sees that **life** on earth is a one shot **opportunity—a window of time**. Once that window is **over**, **it’s over**.
- When John says, “**Love not the world**.” He’s talking about the **sin** of this world, the **spirit** of ungodliness.
 - Listen to **1 John 2:15-17**.
 - Today, I want to talk about the **second head** in this **three-headed dragon: the lust of the eyes**.
 - *How can you slay the head(s) of this dragon?*
 - You will learn to **overcome** the **lust of the eyes** by looking at **Jesus’ wilderness temptation**.
 - The wilderness is a **great picture** of what life is like in this world.
 - Life is a **journey**, one that is **full of temptation** and you need to **overcome** to get to the **Promised Land**.
 - The book of **Revelation** is filled with “To him who **overcomes**...”

2) Your eyes are like windows; make sure they are clean (Luke 4:5-8).

- Often when I prepare these messages, I see **window cleaners**, cleaning the windows of a **high rise**.
 - Generally, people don’t like **dirty windows**. If your windows are dirty, you **can’t see out**, **nor** can you properly **receive light**.
- Let’s look at **Jesus’ second temptation** in Luke (note: Matthew has the temptations in different order): **Luke 4:5-8**.
- *What’s the temptation?*
 - The devil is **showing** him all the kingdoms of the world. He is enticing Jesus with the **lust of the eyes**. The **enemy’s goal**: to make his **eyes dirty**; to tempt him with the **kingdoms** of this world **without** the **cross**. If Jesus’ eyes are **dirty** then he will bow and worship the **devil**.

- This is a **very strong temptation**. This is more tempting than the first temptation. **Each temptation** the devil is **increasing his force** and power.
- First, I want you to see that **Jesus** had a **firm grip on his sword**.
 - He said, **“It is written!”**
 - The **battle** of temptation is always won **before** the **temptation**.
 - **Know** and **memorise** the **Scripture**. Then you can **cut off the dragon’s head of eye-lust**.
- Let’s think about our **eyes** more. Your **eyes** are **like windows**. They enable you to see the world. They also allow you to receive light.
- Again, the issue with **lust** is that it makes your **windows black and dirty**. No light comes in and you can’t see out.
 - **Lust** will **leave** you all **alone**. Don’t blame your brother and sister that you feel alone. The lust of the eyes makes you feel alone because it leaves you looking like a **haunted house**. You end up being one of these **hermits** with all the **blinds shut**. You don’t want anyone to see you, you are **ashamed**. And you are not able to see anyone—truly see them—because lust **corrupts** your soul.
- Today, we are going to **clean your windows**.
 - Let the **Word** of God **wash** the **windows of your eyes**.
 - And then when they are washed you will be able to **see the Lord** and **worship** him for who he is.
- *What do the beatitudes say?* “Blessed are the **pure in heart** for they shall **see** God” (Matt. 5:8).
 - *Did you hear that?* They shall **see** God.
 - **Purity** of heart is **key** to seeing God with your heart.
 - **Purity** is like **washing** the windows of your soul.
 - Then, you can **truly worship God**, because you can **see him** for who he **truly is**.
 - *How can a blind person enjoy the colours and contours of a grand landscape?*
 - They can’t.
 - *And how can you enjoy the **magnitude** and **majesty** of God unless you get rid of lust?*
 - Soon after the beatitudes, in the same sermon, Jesus says, “Everyone who **looks** at a woman with **lust** for her has already committed **adultery** with her in his heart. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell” (Matthew 5:28-29).
 - Here we see Jesus emphasizes the **urgency** and **necessity** of **dealing with lust**.
 - The issue of the **eyes** has to do with **worship**. People **worship men** and **women**, they worship **images** (we see this with pornography and many sexually oriented movies), they worship **possessions** and they worship **money**.
 - In dealing with this sin of lust Jesus says, “You shall **worship** the Lord your God and **serve him only**.”
 - When you really **see Jesus**, nothing else **compares**.
 - **Seeing Jesus** will **pluck** out the eyes of lust. His **beauty** is **infinitely greater** and his **pleasure** and so **far beyond** any other pleasure.

3) You won’t be able to see unless you climb the tree (Luke 19:1-10).

- I want us to look at **Zacchaeus** in Luke 19:1-10.
 - *Do you know what Zacchaeus means?* His name means ‘**pure**.’ He is a living parable of how we can be made pure and live in purity.
- Zacchaeus is **small in stature** and so he **can’t see** Jesus.
 - We can apply Zacchaeus to ourselves. When you are small in stature—**immature**—you can’t see Jesus.
 - The **crowd** is blocking Zacchaeus’ **view**. And today, it’s the crowd that blocks people from seeing Jesus. Everyone’s **opinions** and the **spirit of this world**, keep you from seeing Christ.
- Yet, Zacchaeus is determined to see Jesus. So what does he do? He **breaks out** of the **crowd**. He **runs ahead**.
 - You also need to get ahead of the crowd. **Break away** from the world and its ways. Break away from the **lust of the eyes** so that you see Jesus.

- Zacchaeus, then, **climbs up a tree**. Now in the tree he can see Jesus and that's when Jesus sees him.
- *Now, what does the tree speak of in this event?*
 - To me, it speaks of the **cross**.
 - You need to **climb up the tree of the cross** to see Jesus. You need to allow the **blood** of Jesus to wash the window of your eyes. You need to **die** to your **lust** and in order to truly see and live.
- Today, **climb up the tree**. Listen to Paul: "Christ **redeemed** us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a **tree** [xylon]'—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the **Spirit** through faith" (Gal. 4:13-14).
- Let Christ be your life. "**For me, to live is Christ.**" Let him be your **vision**.
 - The only way you will be able to **see** is **through** the **cross**.
 - But don't just receive **forgiveness** from lust, receive **freedom** from lust. Let **your lust die** on the **cross** and live out your **new identity in Christ Jesus**.
- Lastly, **take worship very seriously**. It's not a time to sit around. You must put your whole body into worship.
 - **Worshipping together** is a **window of opportunity** to exalt Jesus and make his name known.

Conclusion: Your life is a window and your eyes are windows too. Keep your windows clean so that you can truly see Jesus and the world can see Jesus in you. Through the cross, Jesus' blood' you can keep your eyes free from lust.

END NOTES

'Zacchaeus' Word Study

2195. Ζακχαῖος *Zakchaíos*; gen. *Zakchaíou*, masc. proper noun. Zacchaeus, meaning pure. The story of his conversion is related only in Luke 19:2–10. He was a rich Jew, a resident of Jericho and chief officer of the tax or tribute collectors. The Jews regarded all publicans or tax gatherers as sinners. Apparently the amount of taxes gathered from the people in Jericho was high. Zacchaeus' desire to see Christ was so great that he took pains to climb up a tree by the roadside that he might have a good view of Him as the crowd passed. Jesus, knowing his character and motives, proposed to spend the day with him to which Zacchaeus gladly consented. That encounter led to his salvation. He gave the best evidence of his conversion by declaring his intention to give half his goods to the poor and to restore fourfold for every illegal exaction he had made.

Zodhiates, S. (2000). [*The complete word study dictionary: New Testament*](#) (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

from Hebrew... **2141. זָכַק *zakak*** (269a); a prim. root; *to be bright, clean or pure*:—cleanse(1), pure(2), purer(1).

Thomas, R. L. (1998). [*New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*](#). Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.