

"THE EYES OF THE LORD"

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3.

The language of the Bible sometimes represents God as having the bodily parts of men, such as heart, eyes, ears, tongue, etc. This is an accommodation to our limited faculties of thought and understanding. The text is an example of this feature of divine revelation, for it speaks of "the eyes of the Lord." This language, however, expresses that which undoubtedly belongs to God, namely, an infinite capacity of discernment. God knows everything that is taking place at every moment everywhere. Inasmuch as God does not have a physical body, we describe Him in figurative language.

Even though God does not have physical eyes, He can see and watch His creatures. It would be a terrible thing if the universe were governed by a blind power. What confusion and disaster would result from that sort of government!

Various passages in God's Word speak of Him as seeing. Hagar said, "Thou God seest me." Another verse says, "When he saw the sins of the people." Yes, God sees. He is not a sleeping deity. He never slumbers. Day and night are alike to God. There is never a moment when He ceases to observe the world and all that is in it. I am glad that is true. What if there would be a time when God could not see me? What if there should be a time when God did not know where to find me? What a helpless creature I would be, in that event, and in what a predicament I would find myself!

There are some people of whom it can be said, "They have eyes, but see not." By that we mean they are unobservant. They pass by the most obvious things without seeing them. There are dreamers who live in a world of their own fancies and fail to see the things that are happening about them. God is not like that. He never fails to observe anything that is happening. We have to do with an everwatchful and keenly-observant God.

God sees everything and everywhere. He has a perfect knowledge of all people in all places. The sun, in its meridian height, can only penetrate the globe at one time, and even then there are deep valleys and caves of the earth and ocean beds where its rays never come. What if God could see only one side of the world at one time? For twelve hours our half of the world would be out of God's sight. To be out of God's sight would be to be out of God's care. To be out of God's sight and care would be to subject yourself to every imaginable kind of hazard.

You and I can see clearly only that which is near. Objects are lost to us in the distance. We can watch a bird flying through the air, but it soon goes beyond our vision. We can watch an airplane until it is out of sight. It does not take the bird or the airplane long to get beyond the reach of our vision. But God sees them. He sees that which you and I cannot see. No fog dims His vision. No night ever blots out the objects upon which He is ever gazing. No hour of darkness ever hides one thing from the view of God. There is no hiding in secrecy from Him. Neither a dark cellar or a deep mine can remove anything from God's sight.

Many eyes are watching us when we are not aware of it. Yes, they are watching us, reading us and taking lessons from us when we are entirely oblivious of their lingering gaze. There is the mother watching solicitously by the bed of her baby while he is quiet in sleep or tossing in fevered restlessness. There is the night watchman making his round to see that all is well. Then, there is the one who especially trusts us, watching us even in our most unguarded moments in order to catch some incentive to better living. Too, there are the eyes of angels looking at us. Above all, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

What could be more arresting and stimulating than the consciousness of living under the scrutiny of His all-seeing eyes? Whereas, many objects pass close before our eyes without our seeing them, because we are not interested in them, and because we do not want to see them, God is interested in all things. Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice.

I. God Sees The Evil.

Solomon said, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil." A sinner cannot escape the notice of God. It is utterly impossible for him to do so. Anybody who does evil does it under the plain view of God. Anyone who goes where he or she should not go, or does what he should not do, is seen by Almighty God. Some church members would be embarrassed if their pastor saw them in some of the places where they go and doing some of the things which they do. But, they need to keep in mind the fact that "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Many times people will try to keep others from knowing that they are doing things that are wrong. Why do they attempt that sort of thing? Surely, they are unmindful of the fact that the all-seeing eye of God is everywhere, and that God sees them wherever they are and whatever they are doing. Some professing Christians close their window blinds to keep passersby from seeing their gambling and drinking parties at night. Why do they do that? Don't they know that the pulled-down blinds cannot hide them from the view of God?

A proper realization of this truth should make a difference in one's conduct the rest of his days. If you absent yourself from the house of God on the Lord's day, God sees you. You cannot get in your car on Sunday morning and turn your back upon the worship of God without Him seeing you. You cannot turn your back upon the house of God and your face and thoughts to the world on the Lord's day without the all-seeing eye of God being upon you. You just can't do that, no matter how hard you try. Some people seem to think that, if God saw them at church on Sunday morning, they can give the rest of their thought and time on the Lord's day to the world, but don't forget that His very same eyes saw you if you were not in church on Sunday night, too! "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." God always sees and makes a record of what you do.

If you reject Christ as your Saviour, you do that in the plain view of God. Every soul that has ever rejected Christ as Saviour when an invitation was extended did so under the eye of God. He sees everyone who refuses to come to Christ. No church member with membership elsewhere, when it ought to be in the church where he attends and can best serve the Lord, who refuses to do his Christian duty by moving his membership, can keep God from seeing his disobedience. God sees both the unbeliever and the disobedient believer standing back and refusing to do His will. The Bible tells us that "His eyes are upon the ways of man and He seeth all their doings. There is no darkness nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves."

II. God Sees The Good.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." You never read the Word of God that He does not see you. You never engage in prayer that He does not see you. You never witness to another for Christ that

God does not see you. You never visit a sick person for the purpose of encouraging him or her that God does not see you. You never bring comfort to a person in sorrow that the Lord does not see you. God sees everything you do for others. You may be misunderstood by others, but God never misunderstands you. You may be misrepresented by others, but God understands all. He knows every motive. He never misjudges us on any account.

God knows exactly what we need before we ask Him for anything. Yet, it pleases Him for us to make our requests of Him. No mother ever watched over her infant child, or ever watched by the bedside of her sick child, as God watches over His children. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place." I am so glad and grateful that God neither slumbers nor sleeps, but that His eyes are upon me day and night.

God sees you as distinctly as if you were the only person in all the world. Nothing about you nor your circumstances is hidden from Him. Others may not see you; some may even forget you; but God's eyes are always on you. He never loses sight of you in any group relationship, but He sees you personally. His eyes are piercing. He can see you through the thickest walls. Nothing is ever shut out of His sight. He even sees what is in the heart. He sees you continuously -- in the darkest shades of night, in the brightness of the day, in the day of trouble and in the night of sorrow. He sees what you are and what you do. Nothing escapes His observation. Everything lies open to Him. Wherever you are, you are in His presence; whatever you think, it is in His presence; whatever you do, He sees you. He knows your thoughts, motives, purposes, words and deeds. The Bible says, "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." "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." In every place our hearts and lives are open in the sight of Him with Whom all of us have to do. Knowing this, let Him see you do that which you know you should do.