

Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2016  
‘The Eyes Have It’  
Part One

1). Re 3:14 ¶ *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- 18 “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

a). As we look at these familiar verses concerning the Laodicean church we see that part of the solution to their lukewarm condition is to anoint their eyes with eye salve so that they should see. And as we know from our studies on this church they have a particular view of their spiritual condition, as seen in the first half of v17, which is contrary to God’s view seen in the second half of the verse – they aren’t seeing things correctly, hence the need for eye salve.

b). With this inability to see correctly in mind we might remember the Lord’s words to His disciples in what we call the sermon on the mount recorded in – Mt 6:22 *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*

c). V 23 here would seem to provide excellent commentary on the spiritual condition of the Laodicean church as their ‘eye’ is ‘bad’ resulting in them not seeing things as God sees them.

d). We will also remember that the Lord’s instructions in the ‘sermon on the mount’ are given with a view to rulership from the Kingdom of the Heavens, paralleling God’s descent onto Mt. Sinai to give the Law in relation to

rulership in the earthly Kingdom - Ex 19:20 *Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.*

e). And in the verses from Revelation Chapter 3, the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 7 churches, picturing the final condition of the 'Church' at large at the time of the resurrection/rapture, is seen appearing before the Lord in Judgment with a view to receiving a position of rulership with the only begotten Son during the Millennial Kingdom – Now the obvious conclusion we would draw from this is that we had better see things correctly as God sees them; a conclusion that would lead to an obvious question, 'How do we make sure that we do that?'

2). Pr 7:1 ¶ *My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. 2 Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple [Lit. pupil] of your eye. 3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your nearest kin,*

a). Here in these 3 verses from Proverbs Chapter 7 we find the answer to our question given to us as a command. As we would heed this command so wisdom would become our 'sister' and through it understanding will be our 'nearest kin' – it is v2 that gives it to us. If we are to live, to have life for the Age to Come, we must keep the Lord's commands - 1Jo 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*

Mt 25:21 *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful [faithfully obedient] servant; you were faithful [faithfully obedient] over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

And in order to keep the Lord's commands so that we might overcome the world through our faith, so as to be found faithful at the Judgment Seat, those commands, His law, in other words the scriptures, are to be the pupil of our eye.

b). The pupil of our eye in the natural is the lens through which light enters enabling us to see the world around us, so, quite simply then, in the

spiritual, we are to view everything through the lens of the scriptures. Just as we would put on a pair of glasses so that we would bring into clarity that which was previously blurred, so we must view our lives and the world that surrounds us through the scriptures so that we will have clarity to our focus and the correct perspective on our purpose and see things, not as the world sees them, but as God sees them; so that we will see correctly and our eye will be 'good' - Isa 8:20 *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

And here in Isaiah we can find a parallel with that which we saw in Matthew Chapter 6 - and if we go to foundation it is God's Word that is light - Ge 1:3 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

Ps 36:9 *For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.*

Pr 6:23 *For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,*

2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

## Power Point

c). So that we might have a correct perspective on God's Word, the light our spiritual eye is to receive, can be seen in - Isa 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

There is nothing equal to or higher than the Word of God, it is the standard by which all else is to be compared and this is not surprising as the Lord Jesus is the Word made flesh and we will remember what is said about Him in – Eph 1:21 *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

The Word is ‘head’ over all things, far above all principality and power and might and dominion – there is nothing to which it is comparable.

d). Because God’s Word is God - Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

[‘was’ is a verb of being in the Greek – no beginning, no end; the Word always has been God and the Word always will be God]

Because God’s Word is God it cannot be dealt with as we would deal with other things. It cannot be proven nor can it be disproven because nothing exists in the human realm that could be brought to bear on it and because of this God never attempts to prove Himself, His Son, or His Word – they just are – and are above all else.

e). We can see a good example for this at the very beginning of scripture Ge 1:1 ¶ *In [the] beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

God makes no attempt to prove this or explain this scientifically He simply states what he has done ‘in beginning’ and then says concerning the one whom He created with respect to what He has done – Ps 14:1 ¶ *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."*

f). Although in human terms the Word of God cannot be proven we have found that the veracity of the Word has become progressively self-evident to us as we have spent time reading and studying the Word, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth so that understanding would become our ‘nearest kin’ - Joh 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

This then has always been an issue of faith - Ro 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

g). And as the Holy Spirit does His work, so we grow in our faith, so the scriptures become clearer and clearer and we see them to be exactly what they are, the Word of God, God the Word – and they possess a clarity and reality more substantial for us than that which can be seen with the natural eye.

h). And it is because of the nature of what the scriptures are that they can only interpret themselves as we compare scripture with scripture – 1Co 2:13 *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

The scriptures are the only thing we can reference to understand the scriptures, there is nothing else.

i). To follow this thought through we would understand why God can only swear by Himself - Heb 6:13 *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,*

God swore by Himself because there is no one greater to swear by and as the scriptures are God there is nothing greater for them to be interpreted by, they must interpret themselves.

j). Then as we read in - Heb 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

We will realize that the scriptural standard never changes either.

k). Any attempt by Man to humanize the Word, to make it socially and politically acceptable or to dispute its relevance for us today becomes an attempt to re-create God in the image of Man. Or to use a familiar analogy, it is to build a golden calf.

l). That which we call the OT agrees in every detail with that which we call the NT. There is nothing in the New that is not found after some fashion in the Old and that clearly stated in 2 Timothy remains an unchangeable truth – 2Ti 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

m). The Word which became flesh, which has always been God, is found in written form from Genesis to Malachi and yet some who misname themselves a NT church, accept the Word made flesh, but reject or discount the written Word of which Christ is the embodiment.

3). But what I hope we are beginning to see from all this is that we as the people of God in this dispensation must view everything through the lens of scripture, which is to be the pupil of our spiritual eye and then organize our lives accordingly.

a). And that which we see as we do this will either be in accord with the Word or contrary to the Word, it will either embrace the standard or fall short of it. But what we can know for sure as we view this through the scriptures is that there is no middle ground - Mt 12:30 *"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*

b). And so, if we go back for a moment to where we were last week with the husband/wife relationship we will realize that this is a relationship that can only be properly understood by seeing it through the lens of the scriptures.

c). The roles and responsibilities of the husband and wife, father and mother must be illuminated by the light of the scriptures as they are viewed through our spiritual eyes and only when we correctly see these roles and responsibilities as God sees them can we begin to organize our lives accordingly so as to embrace the high calling that God has given both husband and wife - 1Pe 3:7 ..... *as being heirs together of the grace of life*

Php 3:14 *I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

4). In the same way we are to view our relationship with one another through the scriptures and respond to one another according to the scriptures. Notice the progression we find in - 1Pe 3:7 *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. 8 ¶ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling*

*for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil." 13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?*

*Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.*

*Ga 6:1 ¶ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

4). In like manner we must view the world around us through the same lens of the scripture – political commentators and pundits and economists can only present the wisdom of the world and God speaks directly to this kind of wisdom in – 1Co 3:19 *For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; 20 and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 ¶ Therefore let no one boast in men.*

a). Here is the standard for wisdom - Pr 2:6 *For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. 10 ¶ When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, 11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness;*

All that we see in the world around us must be viewed through this standard; it can be no other way.

b). And as we approach November when so many people's thoughts will be exercised in a certain direction do not follow the wisdom of the world, do not waste time wondering what will happen if this one wins or that one – the outcome is already set in the scriptures; we just need to see it and organize our lives accordingly - Da 5:21.....*the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.*

5). So we are then to view all through the lens of the scriptures and it will probably come as no surprise to know that God views us through the same lens.

a). Our actions, our faithfulness, our sinfulness are all seen through the Word – it would not be possible for God to view anything except by His established standard which is Him.

b). The Lord views us now in relation to the written Word we possess and will in that future day view us through the Word made flesh –  
Joh 5:22 *"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,*

*Re 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;*

*Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

And as the Lord sees us through His Word in the present He will see us with compassion and mercy exactly as His Word says as we see in the verses that continue on in Hebrews Chapter 4 - Heb 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize*

*with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

*1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

6). To close this morning, still considering the standard by which God sees us, let's look to the example of David the king - Ps 119:11 ¶ *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! 12 ¶ Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! 13 ¶ With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.*

With this in mind we might remember what the Lord said of David as He viewed him through His Word - Ac 13:22.....*David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'*

a). And it is of course the greater Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh.

7). Now we can also read in Zecharia Chapter 2 in relation to Israel – Zec 2:8 *For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple [Lit. the pupil] of His eye.*

But this will have to wait until next time – if the Lord is willing.