

TURN YOUR EYES AWAY FROM WORTHLESS THINGS!

Note to the speaker:

Strive to reach the heart of your listeners by reading key scriptures with appropriate enthusiasm and reasoning on them. Help all to appreciate the wonderful things that we can fix our eyes on and the vital role of self-control in our worship of Jehovah

WHAT WE SEE CAN AFFECT US (7 min.)

Probably nothing affects our mind as much as our sight

This channel of communication to the mind strongly influences our emotions and actions (*it-1* 789)

What we see with our eyes can initiate or intensify ambitions and desires in our heart for good or for bad (*w10* 4/15 20-21; *w86* 5/1 10-14)

For good: Our sight enables us to perceive beauty, appreciate the wonders of creation, receive evidence of God's existence and glory, and desire to obey him (Ps 8:3, 4; 19:1, 2; 104:24; Ro 1:20)

For bad: Eve, the disobedient angels, and Achan did not pass on from seeing with their eyes and desiring in their heart what was forbidden to them (Ge 3:6; 6:1, 2; Jos 7:20, 21)

Modern commercial advertisers well know the age-old power of eye appeal (*w10* 4/15 21)

How important it is, then, to control what we look at!

We need to take to heart the psalmist's words [Read Psalm 119:37]

OBEY GOD, AND LOOK AWAY FROM WHAT IS WORTHLESS (18 min.)

True Christians are not immune to the desire of the eyes and the flesh

We are encouraged to exercise self-discipline in connection with what we look at and long for (1Co 9:25a, 27; 1Jo 2:15-17)

Job recognized the link between seeing and desiring; he made a covenant with his eyes [Read Job 31:1]

He refused to touch a woman in an immoral way; he would not even allow his mind to entertain such a thought

What happened with the disobedient angels in Noah's day illustrates the danger of developing a passion for illicit sexual relations (Ge 6:4-7)

Jesus warned against doing so [Read Matthew 5:28]

To 'keep on looking' betrays an undisciplined heart that needs to deaden its illicit desires (Col 3:5, 6)

Today many secretly 'keep on looking' at pornography, in secular publications and on the Internet [Read Ephesians 5:3, 4, 12] (*w10* 4/15 21-22)

Even a temporary or an accidental brush with pornography can bring sad consequences

Results can be a guilty conscience, feelings of worthlessness, and great difficulty in erasing immoral scenes from the mind

Our mind is to be held captive by Christ; this can be achieved by nourishing our mind and heart through study of God's Word, prayer, and attending Christian meetings (2Co 10:5; Col 3:9, 10)

Some entertainment may be wholesome, but entertainment that promotes materialism or the occult or that features violence, blood, and death is "good-for-nothing," or worthless (Ps 101:3; *w10* 4/15 22)

Christian parents have the responsibility before Jehovah to be selective about what they allow to be viewed in their home

Beware of disguised occultism in films, TV series, video games, and children's books (*w02* 10/15 11)

Whether we are young or old, our eyes should find no pleasure in video games that specialize in violence and depict killing with gory realism [Read Psalm 11:5] (*g00* 7/8 28)

We must fix our eyes on what is wholesome and uplifting and refuse to focus our mind on any activity that Jehovah condemns

Satan is targeting our thoughts (2Co 11:3)

Even with entertainment that may be considered acceptable, spending *too much time* viewing it encroaches on our daily Bible reading and preparation for meetings (Php 1:9, 10)

BE DETERMINED TO TURN AWAY FROM WHAT IS WORTHLESS (5 min.)

Regrettably, we cannot avoid seeing some worthless things; even Jesus had such thrust upon him (Mt 4:8)

When the Devil showed him the kingdoms of the world, Jesus did not let his heart be incited to have wrong desires, nor did he have to contemplate the Devil's offer in order to reject it

Jesus reacted immediately [Read Matthew 4:10]

His reply was in harmony with his declared purpose in life—that of doing God's will (Heb 10:7)

As followers of Jesus Christ, we make it our personal determination to turn away from what is worthless [Read Psalm 119:101]

It is risky to wait for a confrontation before deciding what we will do about matters that the Scriptures clearly condemn

We must have a predetermined reaction based on our knowledge of the Scriptures and on our desire to do God's will (*w10* 1/15 3)

Never will we regret maintaining a "simple" eye, an eye that is totally focused on doing God's will, not distracted by other things (Mt 6:22, 23; Heb 10:36)

Many of you have been striving to keep a simple eye, and you have long been turning your eyes away from worthless things

You are to be commended—certainly such a course pleases our righteous heavenly Father

Keep doing so, thus setting a fine example for newer ones and youths in the congregation

May our obedience to “pass on from seeing what is worthless” result in our being preserved alive in Jehovah’s own way (Ps 119:37)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on. See *Ministry School*, pp. 52-54, 166-169)

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TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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