

# The Light of the Body

**Matthew 6:19-23:** *“<sup>19</sup>Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup>But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. <sup>22</sup>The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness.”*

## I. Verse 23—*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth”*

- A. Last time, we covered the subject of fasting.
- B. The Lord discusses how fasting was viewed as a sacrifice to God, and we looked at the various reasons to fast in sacrificing eating.
- C. Now, the Lord turns to sacrificing treasures on earth in order to lay up treasures in Heaven.
  - 1. **Matthew 6:19**—*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.”*
- D. The Lord uses the term, “Laying up,” to describe the building of wealth.
  - 1. Laying up is done for the future—not for the present.
- E. In order to make clear what treasures on earth are, He describes the treasures on earth as anything that a thief would want to steal, anything that a moth can destroy, or anything that rusts or deteriorates over time.
- F. That pretty much describes to us everything physical on earth.
- G. A treasure is something that is looked at as the best you can get in this life.
- H. A treasure is something that a person depends on.
- I. A treasure on earth is seen, and a treasure in heaven is not seen.
- J. A treasure on earth is temporary. You can’t take it with you. A treasure in heaven is what you get to keep for eternity.
  - 1. **2 Corinthians 4:18** says, *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*
- K. Treasures on earth look like they are gained, but they are really lost. Whereas, treasures in heaven look like they are lost, but they are really gained.
- L. In verse 20, the Lord speaks of treasures in heaven in the same breath as He speaks of treasures on earth.
  - 1. He is saying that just as sure as there are treasures on earth, there are treasures in heaven.
- M. When He says, “Laying up treasures in heaven,” He is talking about sending ahead what you will want to have.
  - 1. Picture yourself living in a house now. You know that you are going to move to a new house in a different neighborhood, and there is a moving van parked in front of your house.
  - 2. Only what you put in that moving van will be transported to your new house. You would imagine yourself living in your new house, and you would think about what you would want to have and need to have in that new house after you move there. Now is your chance to put in the moving van what you will need, because after you move it, will be too late to load up the van.
- N. That is what laying up treasures in heaven is all about.

1. Laying up treasures in heaven comes from the conviction or assurance that we are going to move to our new house in heaven. It is asking what we want to lay up now for what we will want to have later.
2. We are going to want to have the Lord to be happy with us there, so we will do His will now, so He will be happy with us.
3. We are going to want to have believers there that we had a part in them coming to the Lord. We are going to want to now speak boldly to the lost about their golden opportunity to be forgiven by God and become a child of God.
4. Those treasures cannot be lost to thieves or deterioration.

II. Verse 21—*“Your treasure is, there will your heart”*

- A. If you knew that you were only going to be living in your present house for a short amount of time and that soon you would be moving, you would not be thinking of fixing up your old house because you will be leaving soon.
- B. It all has to do with how confident you are that you are really moving to the new house. It all has to do with confidence in heaven as the eternal destiny.
- C. Then, the Lord said something very interesting when He said in verse 21.
  1. **Matthew 6:21** says, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be.”*
- D. It is very common to look at that statement and to see the heart as directing where the treasure will be put.
  1. In other words, to see that statement as saying, “If your heart is in heaven, then you will be laying up treasures in heaven.”
- E. What is interesting is to look at that statement the other way around as saying, “If your heart is not really centered in heaven and is earth-anchored, then a strategy for freeing the heart from earth is to lay up treasure in heaven.”
  1. That will cause the heart to be focused on heaven.
- F. We are given a command in **Colossians 3:1-2**.
  1. **Colossians 3:1-2** says, *“<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*
  2. The question is how are we to “set our hearts and affections on things above and not on things of the earth?” What is a practical way of accomplishing that?
  3. This is what the Lord is telling us in verse 21.
    - a. **Matthew 6:21** says, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*
- G. The Lord is speaking about the heart, and we all have two great personal heart problems.
  1. Our hearts are desperately wicked and our hearts generate evil thoughts:
    - a. **Jeremiah 17:9** states, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.”*
    - b. **Mark 7:21** says, *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.”*
    - c. **Genesis 6:5** also says, *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*
  2. Our hearts are deceitful, and our hearts mislead us to want our way instead of God’s way.
    - a. **Isaiah 53:6** states, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.”*
    - b. **Psalms 14:2-3** says, *“<sup>2</sup> The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek*

*God. <sup>3</sup>They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*

3. This is why for a person to trust in his own heart is foolishness.
  - a. **Proverbs 28:26** states, "*He that **trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.***"
4. A wise person trusts in the Lord and does not rely on his own heart.
  - a. **Proverbs 3:5** says, "***Trust** in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not** unto thine own understanding."*
- H. We need to corral our wild heart. We need to redirect our hearts from where it naturally wants to be which is away from God. We need to redirect our hearts to where it needs to be—towards God.
- I. In verse 21, the Lord is telling us how to put our heart where it should be—directed towards heaven when He said in verse 21.
  1. **Matthew 6:21** says, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"
- J. The Lord is saying to us in verse 21, "If you want your heart to be in heaven, if you want for your heart to be set on things above and not on things of the earth, then lay up treasure in heaven."
- K. What is treasure in Heaven?
  1. **Luke 12:15-21** says, "*<sup>15</sup>And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. <sup>16</sup>And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: <sup>17</sup>And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? <sup>18</sup>And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. <sup>20</sup>But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? <sup>21</sup>So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*"
  2. This man amassed wealth and said to himself that it was all for himself to enjoy with resting, eating, drinking, and partying. That is called "laying up treasure for himself."
  3. That is the opposite of what is called in **Luke 12:21**, "*Rich toward God.*"
- L. This parable is all about the right way to view wealth and the wrong way to view wealth.
  1. The wrong way to view wealth is to see wealth as, "All mine to enjoy and use for myself." The Lord called this "laying up treasure for himself."
- M. So, the first correct view of personal wealth is that it is not for our interests; it is for God's interests.
- N. To lay up treasure in Heaven is to use wealth for God's interests and not for our own.
  1. As an introduction to this parable, the Lord said in **Luke 12:15**, "*A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*"
  2. The parable then goes on to explain a correct view of wealth. Wealth in itself is not life, but, wealth can be used to bring life.
- O. How do we lay up treasures in heaven? What are God's interests that we are to use our wealth for? What is God's will?
  1. **Matthew 6:10** says, "*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*"
  2. God's will is as follows:
    - a. To **save the lost** from their sins
      - a. **Luke 19:10**—"*For the Son of man is **come to seek and to save that which was lost.***"

- b. **2 Peter 3:9**—“The Lord is... **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.”
- c. **1 Timothy 2:4**—“(The Lord)...**will have all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
- b. To **save the Jewish people** from their sins
  - a. **Jeremiah 50:6**—“**My people** hath been lost sheep.”
  - b. **Matthew 23:37**—“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together**, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”
  - c. **Matthew 15:24**—“But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto **the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**”
- c. To **teach children** to come to the Lord Jesus
  - a. **Luke 18:16**—“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **Suffer little children to come unto me**, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”
  - b. **Isaiah 54:13**—“And all thy **children shall be taught of the LORD**; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”
- d. To **build up the saints** by feeding the Word of God

- a. **Acts 20:28**—“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
  - b. **John 21:15**—“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.**”
3. The more we do those things, the more we lay up our treasures in heaven. The more we lay up treasures in heaven, the more our hearts will be in heaven.
- P.** Where our treasure is determines where our heart will be. Our treasure directs our heart.
- 1. If our treasure is on earth, our heart will be on earth like it was for Lot’s wife.
    - a. **Genesis 19:24-26** says, “<sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; <sup>25</sup> And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. <sup>26</sup> But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”
      - a. Lot’s wife looked back because her treasure was in Sodom.
- Q.** The great advantage of treasures in heaven versus treasures on earth is that treasures in heaven are safe.
- 1. Treasures in heaven do not have to be guarded from thieves.
  - 2. Treasures in heaven do not have to be galvanized and powder coated to protect from rust.
  - 3. Treasures in heaven do not have to be stored with moth balls.
- R.** If our treasure is to work for God’s interests, then our heart will follow our treasure and we will do as it says in **Colossians 3:1-2**—“<sup>1</sup> Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

**III. Verse 22—“The light of the body is the eye”**

- A.** The Lord goes further with this subject of where the heart is as He says in **Matthew 6:22-23**.
- 1. **Matthew 6:22-23** says, “<sup>22</sup> The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”
- B.** He is speaking about the eye and what the eye is looking at. **What the eye is looking at shows what a person is interested in.**
- C.** The light of the body is the eye.
- D.** The eye is like the port hole for the body. The eye lets light into the body.
- 1. Using the analogy with the sun, there is no light in the body itself and the only light that man comes from outside of man.
  - 2. In the same way, man has no spiritual light in himself, and the only true light that man has comes from outside him.
  - 3. It is the eyes of his spirit that lets light into man.
- E.** A person determines whether light will be let into his soul, and a person determines that based on what their eyes are looking at.
- F.** Picture a man in a closet, and the only light he can see is coming from the crack in the door.

1. If he turns away from the crack in the door, then he is in darkness and no light comes into him.
  2. But, if he chooses to turn around and face the crack in the door, then he is in the light, and light comes into him.
  3. But, where he chooses to face—either away from the light into darkness or towards the light—determines whether or not he will let light into him.
- G.** In the same way, as a man in a dark closet with the only light coming from the crack in the door, man has no spiritual light inside him. There is no light that comes from his heart.
1. What comes from the heart of man is found in **John 3:19**.
    - a. **John 3:19** says, “*Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*”
    - b. What is in the heart of man is a love of darkness?
  2. The only light that man has comes from outside of him from God and God’s Word.
  3. The only way for man to have light in his heart is determined by what his eyes are turned to.
- H.** If man chooses to direct his spiritual eye on dark things (like news reports of murder and rape and pornography or movies and TV programs that contain murder and rape and incest and homosexuality and swearing), then his whole spiritual body is full of darkness.
- I.** But, on the other hand, if he chooses to direct his spiritual eye on “*whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report,*” then his whole body will be full of light (**Philippians 4:8**).

IV. Verse 22—“*If therefore thine eye be single*”

- A.** The Lord speaks about the believer who does both—watches darkness and watches light.
1. He goes to church and reads his Bible and prays, but he also watches programs and movies that contain the darkness of murder, fornication and swearing.
  2. The Lord describes this believer as having an eye that is not single.
- B.** That is a believer who has two interests—an interest in the world and an interest in heaven.
1. That is a believer with a divided gaze.
- C.** That is what is called, “double-minded” in **James 1:8**.
1. **James 1:8** says, “*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*”
- D.** Fortunately, all is not lost for the double minded believer because there is a way out in **James 4:8**.
1. **James 4:8** says, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*”
  2. There is a way back to God for the double-minded believer.
  3. There is a cleansing of the hands from sin.
  4. There is a purifying of the heart from double-mindedness.
- E.** There is a return to a single eye in verse 22.
1. **Matthew 6:22** says, “*If therefore thine eye be single, the whole body shall be full of light.*”
- F.** If there is not two interests in the world and the Lord, then the whole body will be full of light.
- G.** It is either the world or heaven.

V. Verse 23—“*Eye be evil...how great is that darkness*”

- A.** Now, the Lord speaks about the whole body being filled with darkness in **Matthew 6:23**.
- Matthew 6:23** says, *“But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”*
- B.** He speaks about an eye that is evil and how that causes the whole body to be full of darkness.
- C.** This Greek word used for evil means “degenerated” or “bad.”
- D.** A degenerated eye may see double, like a double minded man.
- E.** A degenerated eye may wander.
- When it is covered, it may drift off to the side.
  - That wandering eye has to constantly be pulled in, and it can be exhausting.
- F.** The Lord says that if the light in a person is darkness, that it is great darkness.
- Matthew 6:23** says, *“If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”*
- G.** In verses 22-23, He makes statements about light that have far reaching implications into a person’s life.
- H.** To see those far reaching implications, we have to answer the first basic question of “What is the light that the Lord is talking about in verses 22 and 23?”
- I.** The Bible is crystal clear in defining what spiritual light is from.
- John 8:12** says, *“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**”*
  - The Lord Jesus Christ has made the categorical declaration that He is the Light of the World.
- J.** What is very important about what He said is what He did **NOT** say. He did not say, “I am **a** light of the world.” He said, “I am **the** Light of the world.”
- K.** That means that there are **not** other lights that He is just one of. He is the **only** Light of the world.
- John 1:4-5**—*“**4** In him was **life**; and **the** life was **the** light of men. **5** And **the** light shineth in darkness.”*
  - John 1:9**—*“That was **the true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*
- L.** Being **the** only light is similar to what He declared about Himself in **John 14:6**.
- John 14:6** says, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am **the** way, **the** truth, and **the** life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*
  - He did **NOT** say, “I am **a** way, **a** truth, and **a** life” as if there were **other ways** and **other truths** and **other life’s** and **other roads** to come to God the Father apart from Him.”
  - No! He said that He is the **only way**, He is the **only truth**, and He is the **only life**. There is **no other road** to God the Father apart from Him.
  - There is **no other light** than Him.
- M.** He is so much the only light that in even Heaven, there is only one light that is seen.
- Rev 21:1**—*“And I saw a **new heaven.**”*
  - Rev 21:23**—*“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and **the Lamb is the light thereof.**”*
- N.** There is **only one spiritual light** in the universe.
- O.** His statements about light in verses 22 and 23 include:
- Light and darkness in relationships
  - Light and darkness in marriages

3. Light and darkness in families
  4. Light and darkness in work and businesses
  5. Light and darkness in entertainment
- P.** All these parts of life are all included in what He said about light and darkness in verses 22-23.
- Q.** And it is all because He used the word, “The” in “*The light of the body.*”
1. In **Matthew 6:22**, when He said, “**The light** of the body,” He was referring to Himself.
  2. In **John 8:12**, when He said “**the light** of the world” He was referring to Himself.
  3. He did not say He is “a” light. He said He is “**the**” light.
- R.** If a person is not looking at THE only light of the world, then he is looking at darkness. His whole body is full of darkness and How great is that darkness!
- S.** There is the darkness of **human relationships** that are **not looking at or focused on** the only light of the world, who is the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. For those human relationships (relationships or friendships) that are not directed towards Jesus Christ, **are in darkness.**
  2. For those human relationships that are not oriented towards the Lord Jesus Christ, How great is the darkness of those **human relationships!**
- T.** There is the darkness of a **marriage** that is **not centered on or based on** the only Light of the world who is the Lord Jesus Christ, and those marriages are in darkness.
1. For those **marriages** that are not centered as a base the Lord Jesus Christ, how great is the darkness of those marriages!
- U.** There is the darkness of a **family** that is not **absorbed with** the only Light of the world who is the Lord Jesus Christ, and those families are in darkness.
1. For those families that are not **occupied** with the Lord Jesus Christ, how great is the darkness of those **families!**
- V.** There is the darkness of a **work or career or business** that is not **fixated** on the only Light of the world, and those works and careers and businesses are all in darkness.
1. For those works and careers and businesses that are not centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, how great is the darkness of those **works and businesses!**
- W.** There is the darkness of an **entertainment or a recreation or a hobby** that is not centered on the only Light of the World who is the Lord Jesus Christ, and those entertainments and recreations and hobbies that are not centered on the Lord Jesus Christ are in darkness.
1. For those entertainments and recreations and hobbies that are not centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, how great is the darkness of those **entertainments, recreations and hobbies!**
- X.** Verses 22-23 are referring to all aspects of life when it speaks about the light of the body as the eye all of life—**relationships, marriages, families, work and entertainment.**
1. It is a matter of either light or darkness—nothing in between.
- Y.** We see a world that is under what the Bible calls “**the rulers of the powers of darkness of this world**” in **Ephesians 6:12.**
1. **Ephesians 6:12** says, “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against **the rulers of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*”
  2. This world is ruled by powers of darkness.
  3. This terrible darkness is outside of us in the form of powers of darkness.
  4. It is even more serious because the truth is that our sinful natures puts us right in the center of this darkness to the point where we are called “darkness” itself in



## **Ephesians 5:8**

a. **Ephesians 5:8** says, “*For ye were sometimes darkness.*”

5. That is a pretty frightening description of us—to call us not just in darkness, but darkness itself. That is describing us as part of the fabric of darkness.
  6. That is like when God described Israel in **Isaiah 1:4**.
    - a. **Isaiah 1:4** says, “*Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.*”
- Z.** With that description, that made us look carefully at what God said in **Genesis 1:3**.
1. God said, “*Let there be light.*”
  2. Surrounded by darkness outside of us and infested with darkness inside of us, we look at **Genesis 1:3** and say, “Lord, say, ‘Let there be light’ in my soul.”
- AA.** How do we get light into our dark souls?
1. **Psalms 119:105** states, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*”
  2. It is the Word of God that is the source of our light.
    - a. It is only as we turn our eye to the Word of God that light comes into us.
  3. **Psalms 119:130** says, “*The entrance of thy words giveth light.*”
    - a. That word for entrance comes from the word “door” in Hebrew.
    - b. That verse is not saying that the entrance of God’s word into us brings light.
    - c. That verse is saying when we open the door of God’s Word, then we receive light.
- BB.** When we study the Word of God, it is the meaning of the Word of God that brings light.
- CC.** When we feel under the power of the control of the rulers of darkness, when we feel under the control of our own sinful nature, when we unfold the meaning of God’s Word, and when we read the Bible and go one step further to find out what verses mean, God delivers us from the external and internal power of darkness.
1. We give thanks to God for that as it says in **Colossians 1:12-13**.
  2. **Colossians 1:12-13** says, “*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:<sup>12</sup> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness.<sup>13</sup>”*
- DD.** In that verse, the devil is called the power of darkness, which reminds us that we had not just wandered off into some dark place and were there needing to be led out of that dark place.
1. We were being held by the power of darkness, and in order for us to be delivered, there had to come a more powerful person to free us from the power of darkness. This is the point that the Lord made when He spoke about delivering a bound person in **Mark 3:22-27**.
    - a. **Mark 3:22-27** says, “<sup>22</sup> *And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.* <sup>23</sup> *And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> *And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> *And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> *And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. <sup>27</sup> *No man can enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.*”****
  - b. He was accused of working in league with the devil to cast out demons, and He reasoned with them to explain how He was delivering bound souls.

- c. He spoke about entering into a strong man's house to spoil his goods, encountering the strong man, and having to bind the strong man.
- d. We see the Lord in the fight that He won, and by his victory, we were delivered.

EE. Our eyes were opened or what the Bible calls the enlightenment of the eyes of our understanding" found in **Ephesians 1:18**.

1. **Ephesians 1:18** says, "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*"
2. In order for the eyes of our understanding to be enlightened, there was first the Lord who entered into the strong man's house and bound the strong man in order for us to have the eyes of our understanding to be enlightened. That allowed us to be freed from the power of darkness.
3. This is because "*The light of the body is the eye*" (**Matthew 5:22**).
4. The light of the body is the eye because the eye lets light into the body by what it is focused on.
5. That is what also makes the eye the road into the heart.