

provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

- 7) Run away! (2 Timothy 2:22) "*Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*"
- 8) Say "NO"! (1 Peter 2:11) "*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*"
- 9) Fear displeasing God. (1 Peter 1:17) "*And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*"

b. Firmly resolve now in order to stand later

- 1) Joseph acted on **past** resolution. So did Daniel.
- 2) Establish God-fearing viewing rules and keep them.
- 3) Avoid ALL areas of known temptation. Do not be a fool!
- 4) Filter protect your phone and Internet (K9, Qustodio, etc.). Be accountable to your spouse or a godly friend.
- 5) Bounce your eyes when sudden wickedness or indecency appears. **Like a bouncing ball instantly changes direction, so must our eyes.**

*Protect our eyes is by **fearfully realising** the danger **prudently evaluating** what we see, **firmly resolving** to do right. The fourth ...*

4. Personally Decide "I"

a. No one can make this decision for you

- 1) Your pastor, spouse, nor your parent can do it for you.
- 2) Though He urges you to do so, God will not force you.

b. Personally decide to protect your eyes.

- 1) You alone can vow to God to set no wicked thing before your eyes.
- 2) The decisions you make now will influence the rest of your life and on into eternity.

Conclusion: David said, "**I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.**"

Will you do the same? If you have not been protecting your eyes or the eyes of your family, confess it to God. Ask God for wisdom and help.

Always let the **Bible** be your authority as you evaluate what you view.

Doing what is doubtful is sin (Ro 14:23). When in doubt, don't! Choose to glorify God!

Song: Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord - **337**

Eye Protection

21 July 2019 AM - Psalm 101:3a - Family - Scott Childs

Introduction: My father on the farm became a fairly good welder. He taught me a little, but I never caught on. One thing I did learn is to protect my eyes around welding. The bright light can blind a person.

The Psalmist also determined to protect his eyes, but in another way. Read Psalm 101:3a. Protecting our eyes will help to protect our character, morals and reputation.

Transition: As we examine the first half of Psalm 101:3, I want us to note **four actions we must take to protect our eyes.** **We will begin at the end of the phrase and work backwards.**

The first action that will protect our eyes is to ...

1. Fearfully Realise the danger "before mine eyes"

a. Our eyes are a key gate to what enters our minds.

- 1) Our eyes are one of our five senses.
- 2) Our smell, touch, and taste are gates to what enters our minds, but not nearly as significant of gates as our hearing and sight.
- 3) While much enters our minds through what we hear, I believe even more enters through what we see. (Proverbs 27:20) "*Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.*"
- 4) Some of the things we see include people, videos, pictures, words, ads, objects and nature.
- 5) We see these things via life, work, media, Internet, books, shopping centres, the beach, and adverts. Some we can control, others we can only flee.

b. We must fearfully realize the influence of sight.

- 1) What we see stores in our mental database. It stores in high definition video, with full sound and colour.
- 2) What we see feeds our thoughts. One glimpse can trigger memories, rouse emotions and ignite lust.
- 3) What we see influences our character – the way we think, act, speak, respond, dress, and what value.
- 4) What we see in writing influences our beliefs.

- 5) What we see may trigger covetousness. For example, ads seek to make us dissatisfied and desirous of more than God has provided.
- 6) What we look at influences our testimony as well as or fellowship with our spouse, children, and with God.

The first action that will protect our eyes is to fearfully realise the danger. The second is to...

2. Prudently Evaluate what we See *"no wicked thing"*

a. We must learn what God calls wicked

- 1) This word "*wickedness*" means works of belial. It includes all that is worthless, unprofitable, base, ruinous, and destructive.
- 2) To learn what God calls wicked, we must let the Bible guide us. (Psalms 119:133) "*Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*"

b. With God's help, prudently evaluate what we see

- 1) We must prudently evaluate. In other words, evaluate what you watch *carefully* or *sensibly*. Prudent evaluation is not based on personal feeling or popular opinion.
- 2) We must prudently evaluate each thing we see or watch with the above definition of wickedness.
 - a) Is it worthless or unprofitable to me spiritually?
 - b) Is it base, lacking moral principles, ethics, or honour?
 - c) Could it be ruinous or destructive to my character, morals, testimony, or fellowship with God?
 - d) Would Jesus look at it if he were sitting beside me?
- 3) We must prudently evaluate each thing we see using scripture. **Write down these verses to use.**
 - a) (2 Chronicles 14:2) "*And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:*"
 - b) (Proverbs 22:3) "*A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.*"
 - c) (Matthew 5:28) "*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*"
 - d) (Mark 7:21-22) "*For from within, out of the heart of*

men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness." **Does what I watch include any of these?**

- e) (Philippians 4:8) "*Finally, brethren, 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; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"
- f) (1 Corinthians 10:31) "*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*"
- g) (Colossians 3:17) "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*"

The first action that will protect our eyes is to fearfully realise the danger. The second is to prudently evaluate what we see. The third is to ...

3. Firmly Resolve to Honour God *"will set"*

a. Firmly resolve or determine to honour God

- 1) Stand strong as did Joseph. (Genesis 39:9-10) Joseph speaking to Potiphar's wife said, "*There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*"
- 2) Do as Job, who said, (Job 31:1) "*I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"*
- 3) Look away. (Psalms 119:37) "*Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.*"
- 4) Plan protection. (Proverbs 2:11) "*Discretion [planning] shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.*"
- 5) As Daniel, purpose in your heart. (Daniel 1:8) "*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*"
- 6) Stay close to Christ and make no provisions. (Romans 13:14) "*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not*