

*The statutes of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes... (Psalm 19:8)*

Jesus makes a puzzling statement in Matthew 6:22-23: "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 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!"

The "evil eye" envisioned here is not some sort of perverted organ of sight that has an occult power to cast evil spells upon people. It is simply an eye that does not see things accurately and so registers a wrong report to the brain.

As the organ of sight, the eye is charged with the responsibility of informing the whole body as to the nature of the appearance of things. If the eye is "single," that is, it sees things according to singular truth, then the man will be rightly and fully enlightened. If it is "evil," that is, it sees things perversely and wrongly, then the man will be deceived...full of darkness. And if all a man knows, "the light that is in him," be based on wrong information, lies, perversions of truth...then that person is in horrible darkness. He thinks he knows the truth, but the truth to which he is committed is a lie.

Now the psalmist tells us that the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. To say that the commandment is pure is to say that it is truth without any mixture of error. It is singly right. He, then, who reads and receives the Lord's commandments will have his eyes enlightened, and his eyes will, in turn, provide light for the whole man.

If we would not stumble around in darkness, foolishly experimenting with the ideas and philosophies of men, uncertainly groping our way through a maze of lies and deceptions that lead to dead ends, futility, failure, and ultimately death, then let us give earnest heed to the Lord's commandment. It has been tried and proven. No man has ever stumbled walking in such light. If your way has proved to be a delusion and a disappointment, then will you not now heed the wisdom of your Creator's commandments?

-C.M.