**A Covenant With My Eyes**

*Job 31:1*

**Introduction**

1. As Job contemplated his current state of suffering, and was responding to the response of Bildad, he explains how he has kept righteous, and why.
2. Job made a covenant with his eyes.
	1. Covenant – *ber-eeth'* – a compact; an agreement; a pledge.
	2. Literally – cutting a covenant. *(“A covenant is of a sacred and binding nature; and the strength of his resolution was as great as if he had made a solemn compact. A covenant or compact was usually made by slaying an animal in sacrifice, and the compact was ratified over the animal that was slain, by a kind of imprecation that if the compact was violated the same destruction might fall on the violators which fell on the head of the victim.”* – Albert Barnes)
	3. A covenant is very serious. It must be kept (**cf. Hebrews 6:13-18** – two immutable things – promise, oath – cannot be changed, must be kept).
3. A covenant not to sin – to look upon a woman to lust.
	1. This was a compact/agreement/pledge with himself that he would not look at things which were unrighteous – in this case, to lust after a woman.
	2. **Job 31:2-4** – Because God sees all, and will punish the wicked.
	3. **There is so much in the world that can lure us to unrighteousness with our eyes. We must make a covenant with our eyes that we will look away and maintain purity!**
	4. **God knows what we look at, and what we think about!**
4. A Covenant With My Eyes
5. Anything Lustful
	1. **1 John 2:15-17** – we are to keep from looking at things that are lustful.
		1. Lust – desire; a longing for (usually something forbidden)
		2. If something is forbidden, we should not be longing for it!
		3. **Lust of the eyes transitions into the lust of the flesh. Lust of the eyes is not a full satisfaction of the lust, but still wrong. 🡪**
	2. **Matthew 5:27-29** – To actually commit adultery would be sinful, but even to look at a woman to think of her in that way is sinful.
		1. Some say it’s okay to look, as long as you don’t do anything.
		2. **This is not the case! It is sinful to intentionally look and lust!**
		3. **We should be willing to get rid of anything in our lives which causes us to lust with our eyes.**
	3. **Job 31:1** – Job made a covenant with his eyes not to look at a woman in this way.
6. Darkness of Sin
	1. **1 John 2:9-11** – Love for our brother is necessary to be in the light. To be in darkness is to be blinded.
	2. ***“The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble” (Proverbs 4:19)*** 🡪
	3. **Ephesians 5:13; John 3:19-21** – The light of Christ’s gospel exposes our error that we may correct our path. Those who walk in darkness cannot see.
	4. **Matthew 6:22-23** – Our eyes either let in darkness or light. That has a great effect on us. We cannot look into the things of darkness and continue to be light in the Lord.
	5. **This includes all forms of entertainment**. **It is not just what we simply see, but what we consume and think about.**
7. Alcohol
	1. **1 Peter 4:3** – drinking alcohol is wrong. Even social drinking.
		1. Drinking parties – *potos* – simply “a drinking” (Thayer) Note: There is no intrinsic “amount” indicated in the term.
		2. R.C. Trench says of the word that it is "not of necessity excessive" (Synonyms of the N.T., p. 211).
		3. Social drinking is specifically condemned in scripture.
	2. **Proverbs 23:31-32** – We should not even look upon the beverage with the desire to drink it.
		1. Some folks have much more trouble with this than others.
		2. **The thought of drinking alcohol should not even be entertained by Christians.**
		3. **If we are holy the we should not want anything to do with something so negative.**
8. To Examine Self
	1. **2 Corinthians 13:5** – We must give much time to introspection.
		1. It is not wise to go about our life without self-examination.
		2. **If we want to get to heaven, we must make a covenant with our eyes to regularly examine ourselves to see if we are faithful 🡪**
	2. **James 1:21-25** – God’s word is a mirror for our use. We look into it to make sure our spiritual man is proper.
		1. **Some make a covenant with their eyes to not look into the mirror of God’s word. This produces the same effect of looking into darkness.**
		2. **It is vital that we give time to studying God’s word, and meditating upon it with self-examination.**
9. Our eyes are given us by God to use in His service. We must not allow ourselves to use our eyes otherwise. Make a covenant with your eyes to look away from evil, and look into righteousness.

**Conclusion**

1. The decision to look away from these things should be made now – before the situation arises that calls for the practice of righteousness.
2. We must determine that we are going to live for the Lord, just as Job did.
3. **In order to keep ourselves pure, we must look away from the unrighteous things in this life, and look into God’s word for guidance.**