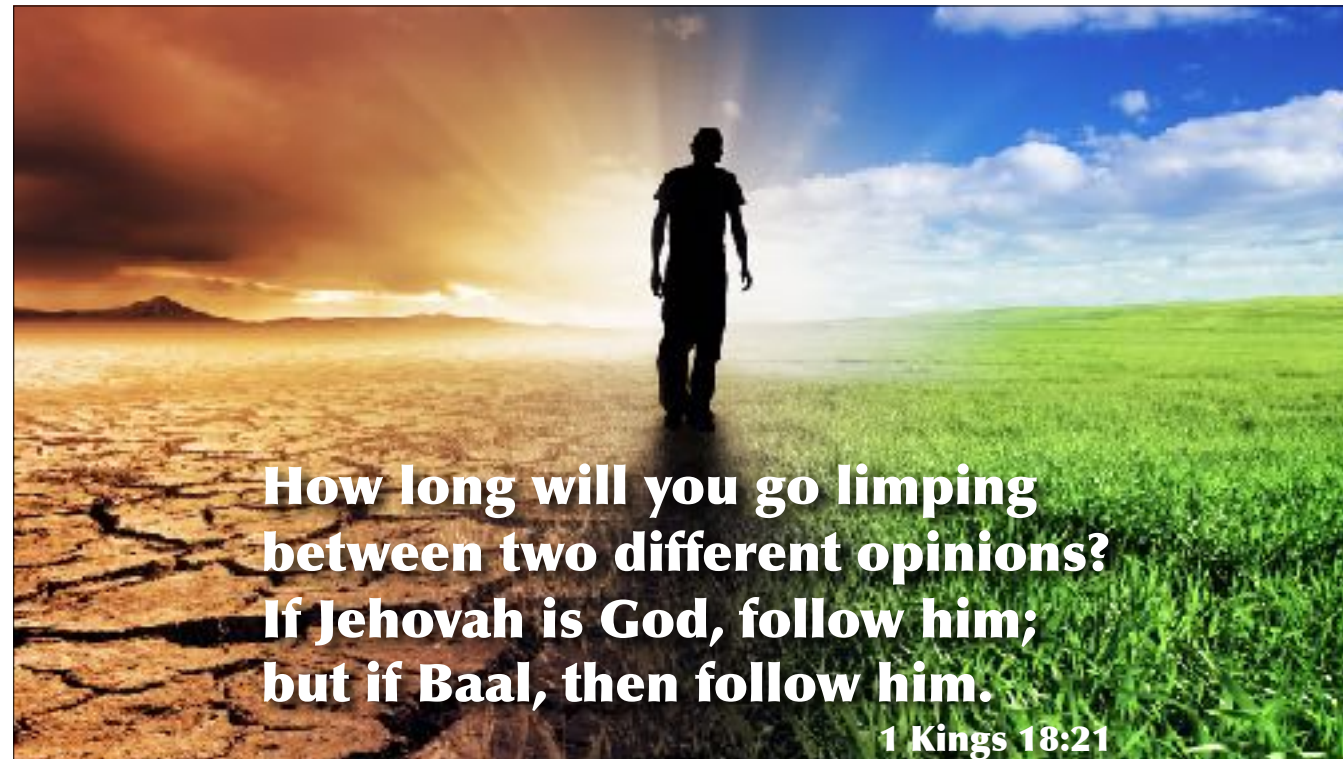




- Matthew 6:19-24



**How long will you go limping  
between two different opinions?  
If Jehovah is God, follow him;  
but if Baal, then follow him.**

**1 Kings 18:21**

- Elijah challenges Israel
  - 1 Kings 18:20-21 (ESV) 20 So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.



- Assyrians and Israel
  - 2 Kings 17:29-41 (ESV) 29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32 They also feared the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 So they feared the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. 34 To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the Lord, and they do not follow the statutes or the rules or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel. 35 The Lord made a covenant with them and commanded them, “You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them, 36 but you shall fear the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm. You shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice. 37 And the statutes and the rules and the law and the commandment that he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to do. You shall not fear other gods, 38 and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods, 39 but you shall fear the Lord your God, and he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.” 40 However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner. 41 So these nations feared the Lord and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children's children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

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**The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!**

**Matthew 6:22-23**

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**No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

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Where Is Your Heart?		
Heart	Treasures on Earth	Treasures in Heaven
Eye	Bad	Healthy
Serve	Money	God
What is this teaching me about practicing righteousness?		

- Heart: treasures on earth or treasures in heaven
- Eye: bad or healthy
- Serve: money or God
- What is this teaching me about how I practice righteousness in my life?

**Beware of practicing your righteousness  
before other people in order to be seen  
by them, for then you will have no reward  
from your Father who is in heaven.**

**Matthew 6:1**

What is this teaching me about practicing righteousness?

- Matthew 6:1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.



**Beware of practicing your righteousness  
before **other people** in order to be seen  
by them, for then you will have **no reward**  
from your Father who is in heaven.**

**Matthew 6:1**

**Giving ... Praying ... Fasting**

**praised or seen by others**

**received their reward**

- Other People
  - Giving: They may be praised by others
  - Praying and Fasting: They may be seen by others
  - Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 (ESV) Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Your Reward is Great in Heaven

— Kingdom of heaven — Comforted — Inherit the earth —  
— Satisfied — Receive Mercy — See God —  
— Called sons of God — Kingdom of Heaven —

**Beware of practicing your righteousness  
before **other people** in order to be seen  
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Matthew 6:1

**Giving ... Praying ... Fasting**

**praised or seen by others**

**received their reward**

- From Beatitudes.. having the right character
  - Your reward is great in Heaven
  - Kingdom of heaven, comforted, inherit the earth, satisfied, receive mercy, see God, called sons of God, kingdom of heaven

Your Reward is Great in Heaven

— Kingdom of heaven — Comforted — Inherit the earth —  
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Matthew 6:1

**Giving ... Praying ... Fasting**

**praised or seen by others**

**received their reward**

**Giving ... Praying ... Fasting**

**in secret**

**Father will reward you**

- In Secret: Matthew 6:4, 6, 18
  - Giving; pray; fasting in secret
  - Father who sees in secret will reward you

Your Reward is Great in Heaven  
 — Kingdom of heaven — Comforted — Inherit the earth  
 — Satisfied — Receive Mercy — See God  
 — Called sons of God — Kingdom of God

**Beware of practicing righteousness before other people in order to gain their reward.**

**And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

Hebrews 11:6

Matthew 6:1

Giving ... Praying ... Fasting

in secret

Father will reward you

by others  
 received their reward

- Our God is a Rewarder!
  - Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
  - Our Father longs to bless us and reward us when we seek HIM!
    - The only true rewards come from Him.
- This section is very pragmatic and forces us to make choices about our lives.

**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

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**Heart**

## **Where is your heart?**

**Treasure  
on earth**

**Treasure  
in heaven**



- Both of these are in the present.
  - Treasure in heaven is not just about the future.
  - This is about practicing righteousness still



Heart

## Where is your heart?

**Treasure  
on earth**

**Treasure  
in heaven**



- The wrong way in the three examples...
  - Giving: They may be praised ... they have received their reward (2)
  - Prayer: they may be seen by others ... they have received their reward (5)
  - Fasting: may be seen by others ... they have received their reward (16)



- These are earthly treasures... seen and praised by men
  - 1) Don't last
  - 2) Take Heart (dominate?)



- Easy to see in the actions of the S&P..
  - When they gave their thoughts were dominated by concern for being praised, not for helping others.
  - When they prayed, they only wanted to be seen, not to exalt God



- When they fasted, they only wanted to be seen, not to seek God's gracious help or give it.
- And so their giving, praying and fasting had nothing to do with God at all, it was not righteous at all.



- Right way
  - Giving may be in secret ... Father who sees in secret will reward you (4)
  - Pray to your Father who is in secret ... Father who sees in secret will reward you (6)
  - Fast, anoint head and wash face, not seen by other but by your Father who is in secret ... Father who sees in secret will reward you.



- You are laying up treasure right now... (treasuring up treasure)
  - It's either treasure on earth or treasure in heaven
  - Not just in future, in the now.
    - The treasure that lasts is God's reward





- So what is this teaching me about practicing righteousness (in any, every, each) way?
  - Where is my heart?
  - What kind of treasure...
    - Immediate but temporary
    - Immediate and eternal

**The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!**

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Eye



## Lamp of the Body

- Eye: healthy or bad
- Lamp of body
  - What does this mean?
    - Light, decision, thinking lead to action?
    - See, analyze, understand?
  - How did the S&P see?
    - outward actions are measure of righteousness



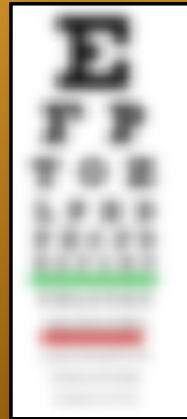
- Healthy
  - Single, or whole, simple, focused?
  - Thayer: simple, single, whole
    - good fulfilling its office, sound
  - CWSB: single, i.e., not complex, easy, used of the eye as not seeing double as when it is diseased.
    - When the eye accomplishes its purpose of seeing things as they are, then it is single, healthy, perfect.

Eye



## Lamp of the Body

**Bad**



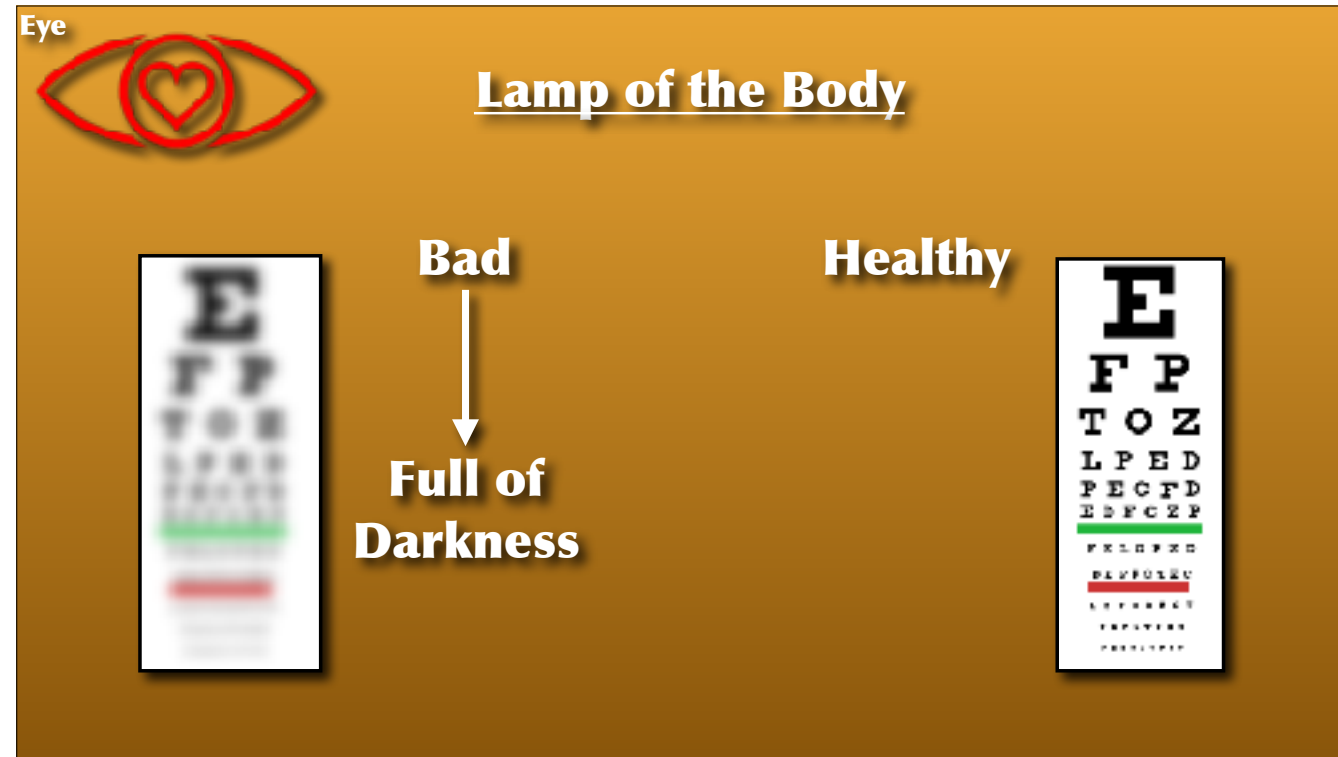
**Healthy**



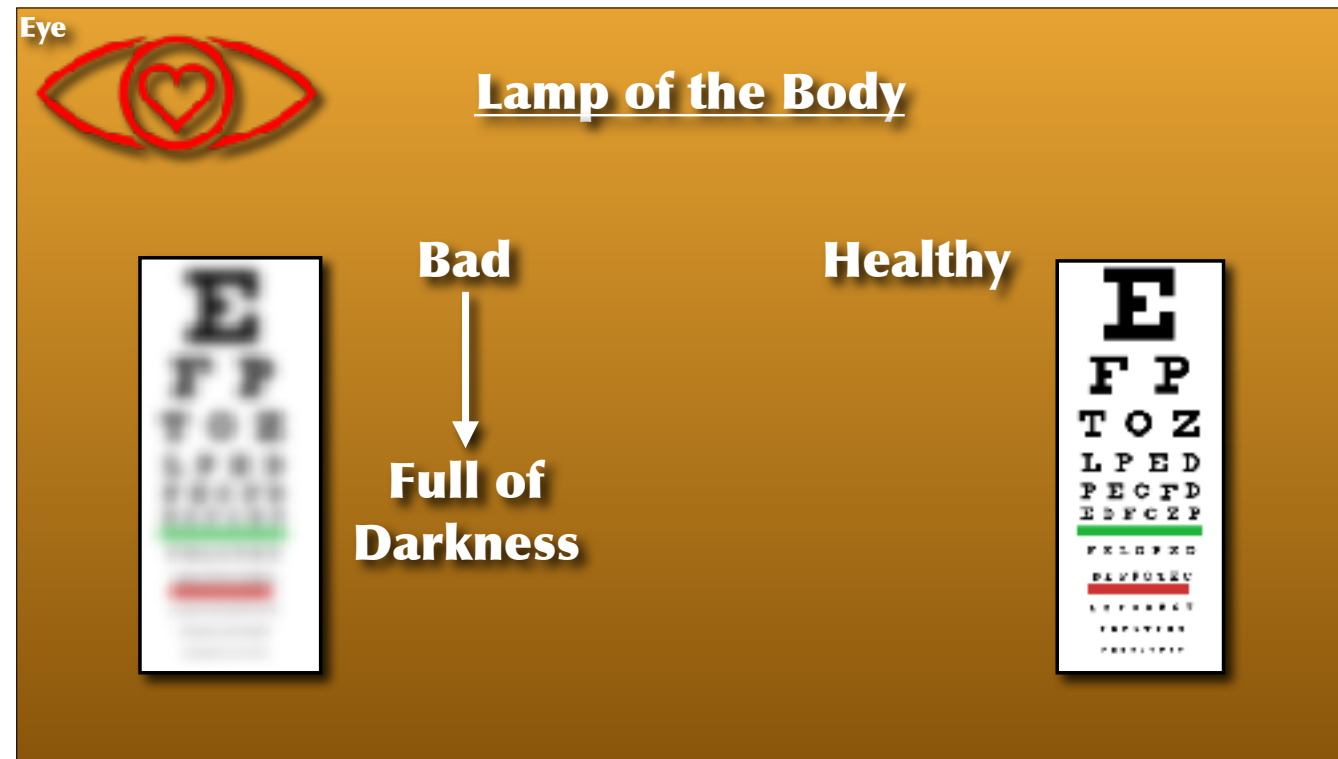
- Bad (KJV: evil)
  - Thayer: bad, of a bad nature or condition; in a physical sense: diseased or blind



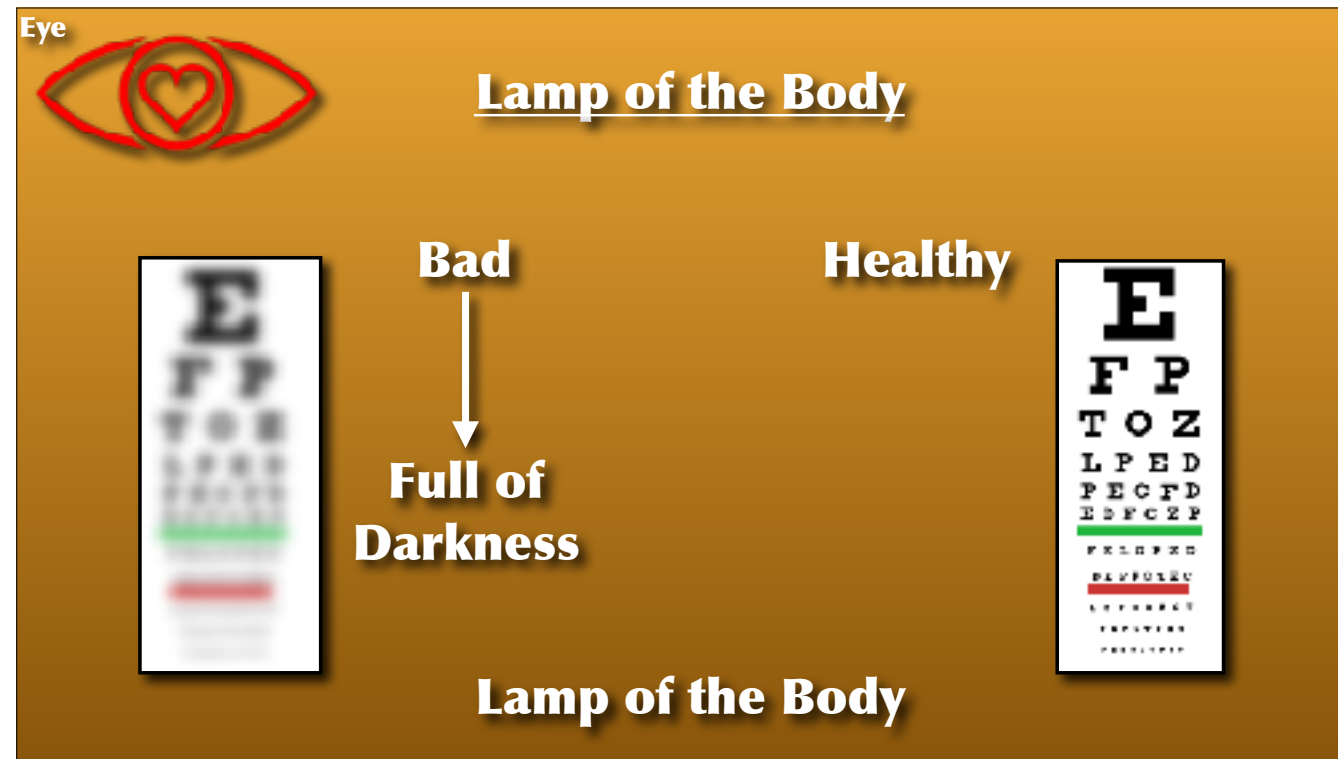




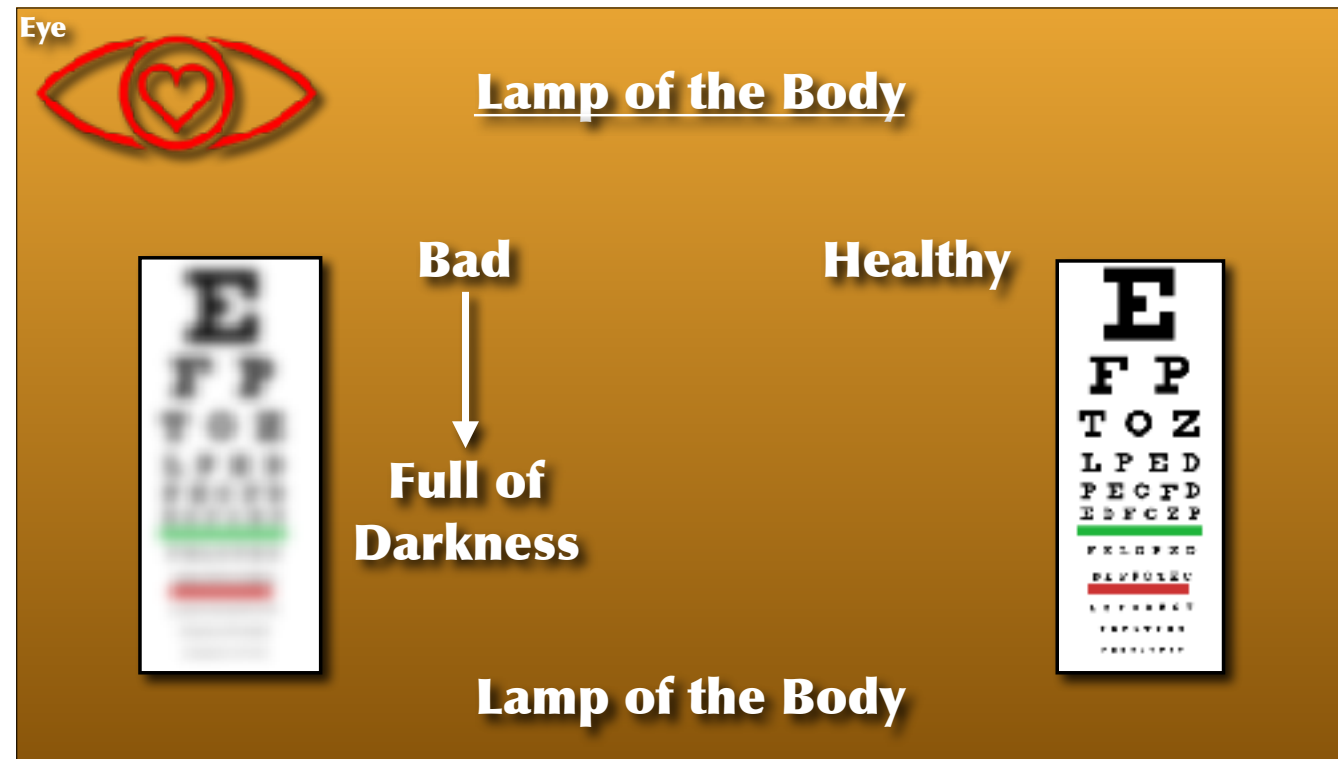
- 2 Peter 1:9 (ESV) For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.



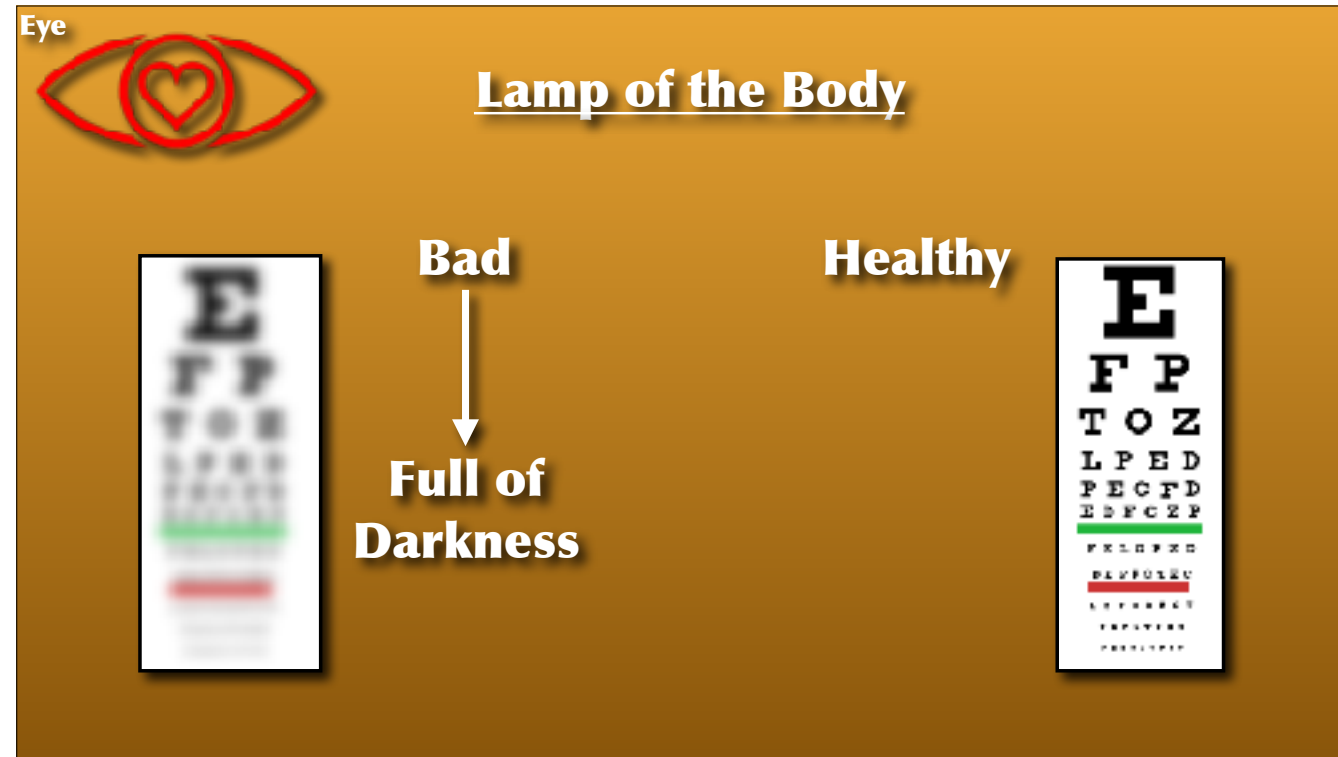
- This is one of Satans great tools against us where we don't even understand righteousness clearly enough to practice God.
  - Doing righteous acts while serving the spirit of the world.



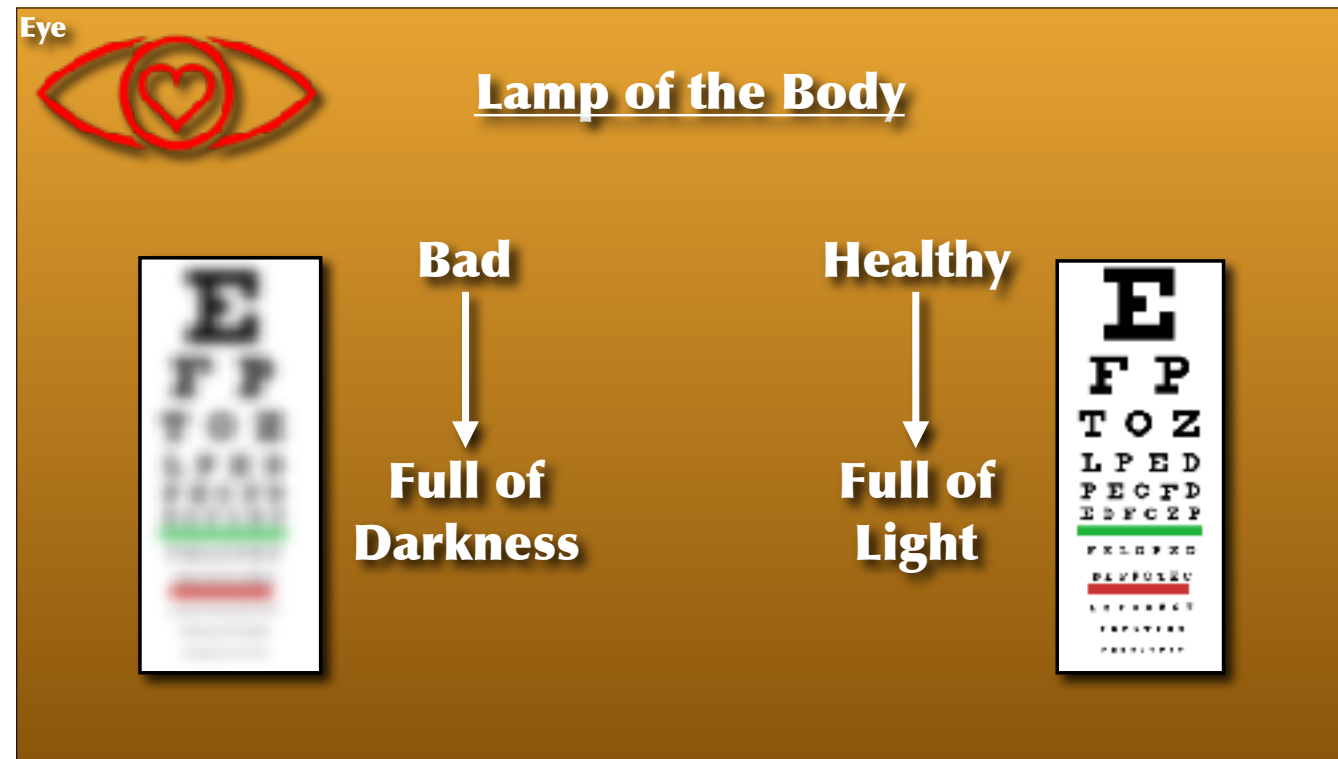
- Great darkness
  - Hypocrisy. For we don't really mean it when we acting in these ways. We are doing them for all the wrong reasons and hoping for all the wrong results.



- Or, perhaps, not so strongly, we are trying to do both?
  - Please Father and Aggrandize myself to others.
  - See the righteousness as the ACT itself,
    - with no understanding of it's underlying purpose and expression of one's character that should be like the Fathers.



- So ultimately, we end up So deceiving ourselves that we don't even realize how badly we have failed.
- We've done the Act, therefore God must be pleased and others must know that we are righteous.



- Healthy = full of light
  - When we properly understand our Father and righteousness, then practicing righteousness will be easy (easier?)
  - When giving, praying, fasting:
    - Proper focus on being like our Father, pleasing Father, and helping others in their need.
    - See clearly the true purpose of righteousness (not hypocritical)



**No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

**Matthew 6:19-24**

- 24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Serve

## Who do you serve?



- Serve: God or money
  - Master
    - The one that controls my life and my actions

Serve

## Who do you serve?



- Serve
  - Thayer: metaph. to obey, submit to
    - in a good sense, to yield obedience
    - in a bad sense, of those who become slaves to some base power, to yield to, give one's self up to
  - MED: to serve, be occupied in the service of, be devoted, subservient, Mt. 6:24

Serve

## Who do you serve?



- TDNT
  - they denote compulsory service
  - while *doúlos* stresses dependence on the lord.
  - the total commitment of *doúloi* and the total claim of the *kýrios* serve here to illustrate the unconditional lordship of God and the unconditional responsibility of believers to him.

Serve

## Who do you serve?



- Thus if slaves have two masters, as might happen, they cannot show the same commitment to both.
- Similarly, one cannot be a true *doúlos* of God without throwing off mammon (Mt. 6:24).

Serve

## Who do you serve?



- In practicing righteousness, where do I look for instruction and guidance for my life and practice.
  - Matthew 10:24-25: “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.

Serve

## Who do you serve?



- S&P: Romans 10:3 (ESV) For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Serve

## Who do you serve?

**Mammon**  
(money & possessions)

**Love**  
**Devoted**

**Hate**  
**Despise**

**God**

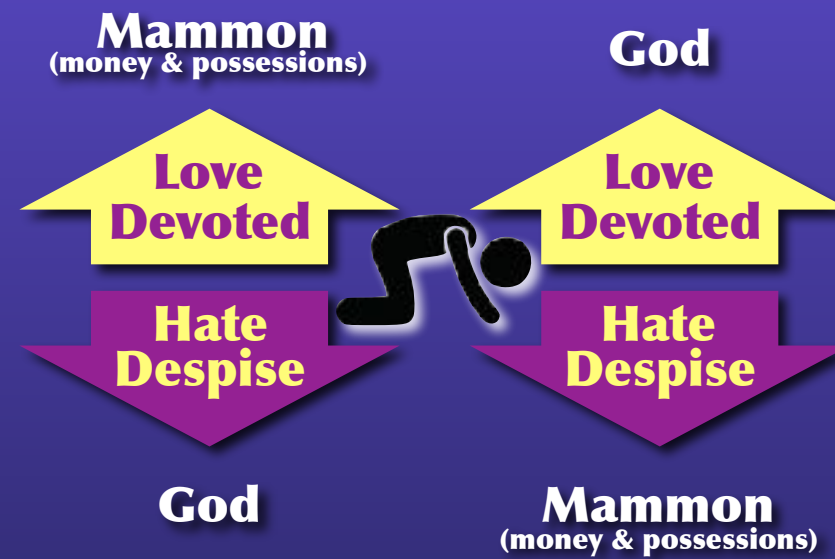


- Mammon or God



Serve

## Who do you serve?



- God or Mammon
- However...
  - Blindspot
  - Don't think that it's really that black and white
  - It's really not as bad as
    - Love money = hate God
    - Love God = hate money

•

Serve

## Who do you serve?

**Mammon**  
(money & possessions)

**God**

**Love  
Devoted**

**Love  
Devoted**

**Hate  
Despise**

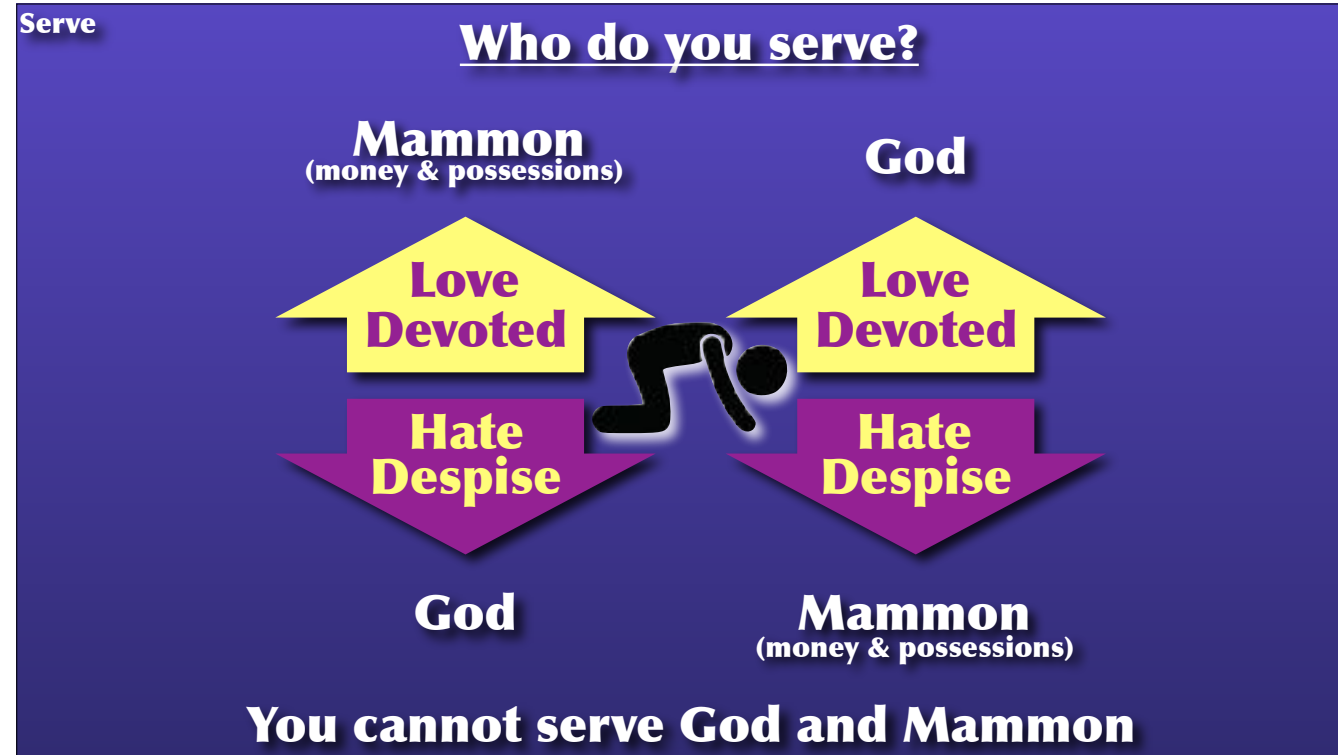
**Hate  
Despise**

**God**

**Mammon**  
(money & possessions)

**You cannot serve God and Mammon**

- Jesus is showing us that we must have God as our Master
  - Then, striving to be like Him, we practice true, meaningful righteousness
  - Because I am seeking to please my Father, obey his desires and be like him.
  - Do the right things, in the right way, for the right reasons.



- Use the example of Jesus to help us understand this relationship and dependence!
  - John 6:38: For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.
  - Matthew 7:21: Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.



- Sometimes it feels as if we are caught in a tug of war between “masters”
  - A part of me wants to serve God
  - But I have to live my life: work for money, time with family,
  - This is a false dichotomy that we’ve projected onto this passage.
    - Our Heavenly Father never intended us to be torn this way.
    -



- Our Father is the only real rewarder!
- Satan is not a real "master"; nor does he offer anything that benefits us at all.
- Delusion.
- And it is this simple: EITHER/OR; NO GREY.
  - heaven or earth
  - light or darkness
  - God or mammon

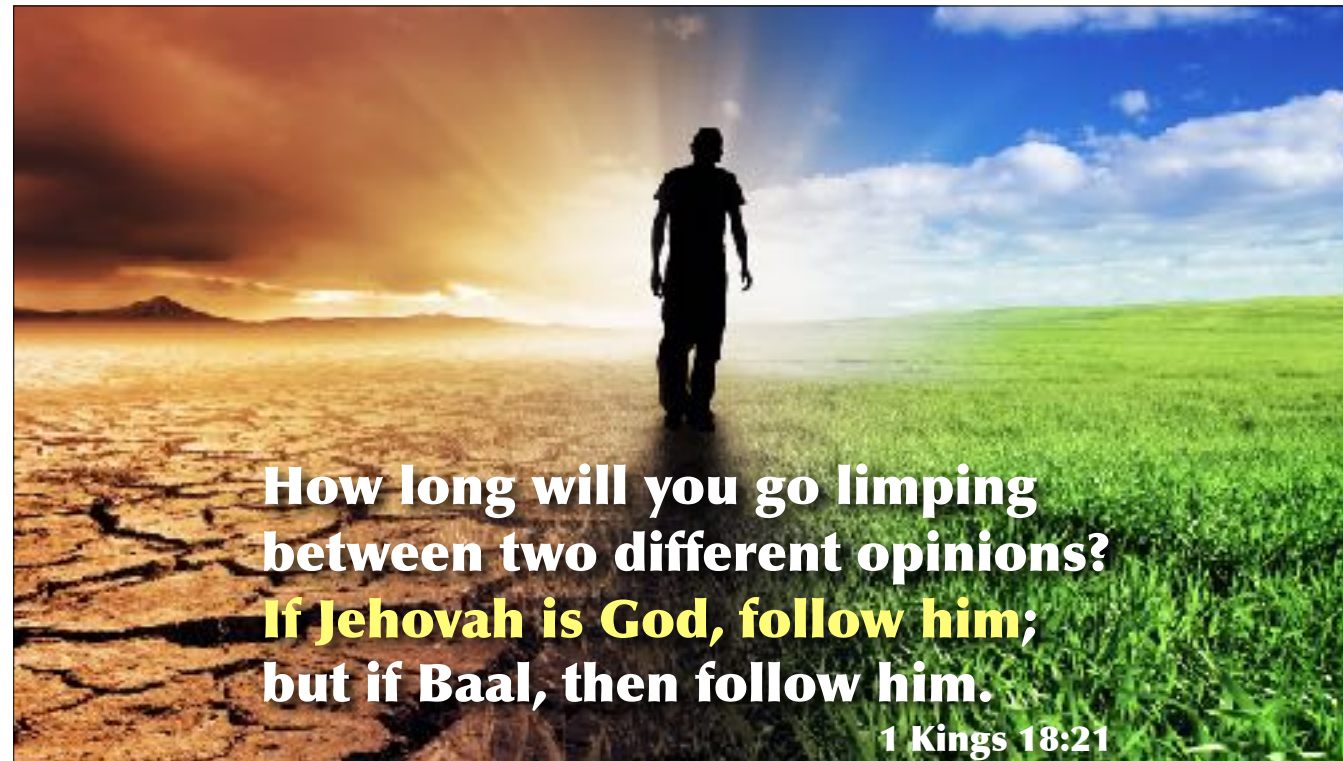


- Our Father is a rewarder!
  - Wants us to practice righteousness
    - peace! rejoice!
- Because all the true, real, and meaningful rewards will be granted by Him.
  - Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (NASB: “freely give us all things?”)



- Assyrians and Israel
  - 2 Kings 17:33 So they feared the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.





**How long will you go limping  
between two different opinions?  
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**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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## True Treasure

Matthew 6:19-24

Synopsis: Jesus reminds us that practicing true righteousness is about my heart, my eye, and who I serve. There is peace in knowing that the only true treasure comes from our Father who rewards us generously as we choose to follow only Him.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**