

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;*

*I will counsel you and watch over you..*

## THE PROBLEM OF WANDERING EYES . . . .

This past Sunday we learned that King David had eye-trouble.

Now, in my years at Salem, I have heard of lots of other people - modern day people - with eye trouble. Near sightedness. Far sightedness (that's me!) Glaucoma. Cataracts (lots of those!) Detached retinas. Floaters.

Well, I don't think David had any of those troubles. He had, later in life, a wandering eye. Maybe two wandering eyes. He took his eyes off the Lord, and placed them on . . . 'the other woman.' Bathsheba.



Yep, Bathsheba. Taking an outdoor bath on her outdoor deck. Right underneath the king's balcony. Maybe she shouldn't have.

My guess is that very few had indoor bathrooms in those days. Only the very wealthy might have. In some parts of our world, times haven't advanced all that much. When I was in Nicaragua, I saw people bathing outside. Their sticks and blue plastic tarp huts didn't come equipped with a bathroom! So, they'd be outside, dumping a bucket of water on their head, soaping up, rinsing off.

Maybe this was Bathsheba. In those days, long, long ago, people were pretty modest. David should have looked away. But he didn't. He surrendered to temptation, rather than submitting to God - and to holiness. And he paid the price for what happened next - he paid an exorbitant price.

Well, what's that have to do with us today? We can all have eye trouble today. We can all fall victim to the 'wandering eye problem.' Our eyes are to be focused on the Lord - and on following Him on the Holy Highway. Just like the old song:

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.***

Well, just as David turned away from the Lord and turned towards adultery with a married woman, so we are prone to do. Maybe, for many of us, adultery would be a 'bridge too far.' We might not go that far, in the wandering of our eyes.

But maybe . . .

- We would let our eyes rove over pornographic material; the vast majority of people do today, and it's available everywhere, for free.
- We would let our eyes wander primarily to sources of fiction and entertainment, rather than tuning in to God's Holy Word - the Word that gives us life, and direction, and keeps us from trouble.
- We would turn our eyes towards the latest materialistic item - the newest acquisition, rather than remaining content with what the Lord has already given us.



There are so many ways to have wandering eyes today. There are more temptations before us than ever before in history, because we are surrounded and bombarded by so many venues and media channels today.

Sorry to say, but many of us put Satan's media channel right into our children's hands, when we permit them to have smart phones with unfiltered access to every diseased and depraved image and idea available everywhere in cyberspace around the globe - in seconds.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of pornography on boys, and men, and families. It may be a problem for some girls, and women, as well. Studies show that two thirds of Christian men regularly use porn and more than half of pastors view it as well!

Did you know that Playboy magazine quit publishing nude photos, because it can't compete with the porn that's available for free online - everywhere? (I remember when I was a hormone filled teenage boy, the only porn available was found in magazines like Playboy, and Hustler, but you had to look 21, you had to pay for it, you had to ask for it, you had to endure the glare and shame of taking it to the aged checkout lady at the drug store or news store. Fortunately for me, my 'wandering eyes' were much more interested in cars and motorcycles than in pictures of girls!)

It turns out that a wandering eye problem can look and feel very much like an addiction. Once we get started, it's hard to stop! Just so you know, in 2004 an expert psychologist testified before congress, "Modern science allows us to understand that the underlying nature of an addiction to pornography is chemically nearly identical to heroin addiction."

If you study the outcomes of David's wandering eye problems, as was suggested during the message on Sunday morning, you see that his choices and behavior had a trickledown effect on his family. The child born to adultery died. And three of his adult sons, Amnon, Adonijah, and Absalom all sinned, rebelled, and died. David nearly lost his kingdom to his sons who did not respect him and who rebelled against him.

If we have a wandering eye problem, what do we do about it?

Jesus suggested radical steps: ***And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.*** (Matthew 18:9)

Now, I recognize that in an era of laser surgery, not too many of us are going to correct a wandering eye by gouging it out and throwing it away. However, what Jesus is suggesting here - is serious steps need to be taken! Don't continue to play with sin! Because sins, though they may start small, they have a tendency to grow bigger, and can lead you ultimately to the fires of hell!

At our house, it seems daily we get phone calls with 'special offers' (usually to spend money on things we did not know we needed!) I have a special offer for you:

If you need help with a wandering eye problem, or any other spiritual problem, we are here to help. We have pastors. We have ministers. We have deacons. We have aging and wise saints who have been through it all. There is help. Get some! May the Lord bless you as you 'turn your eyes upon Jesus.' He will never lead you astray!



#### **RAPID UPDATE: RELOCATION TO NORTHPOINTE BUSINESS PLAZA**

Do you remember the old story about 'Chicken Little'? She would run around shouting 'the sky is falling! The sky is falling!'

Well, those who are on the Salem Administrative Board, do not want to inflict any kind of panic reaction within our congregation about our **possible** move to what is now the Orrstown Bank complex at the corner of Salem Road and Philadelphia Avenue.

As was reported during our previous all-church meetings on the subject, this is a major undertaking, and we want to take it cautiously, wisely, and deliberately. If this happens at all, it may take 18 months or more before we reach a 'settlement.' So, no panic, please!

Here is what has been happening:

- Bill Nye has been working with the bank to find a financial solution that would work for both the bank, and us.
- We have enlisted the support of a local attorney to develop and submit a formal offer to the bank.
- We are working on setting up a time when those who are interested and available can have a tour of the facility.

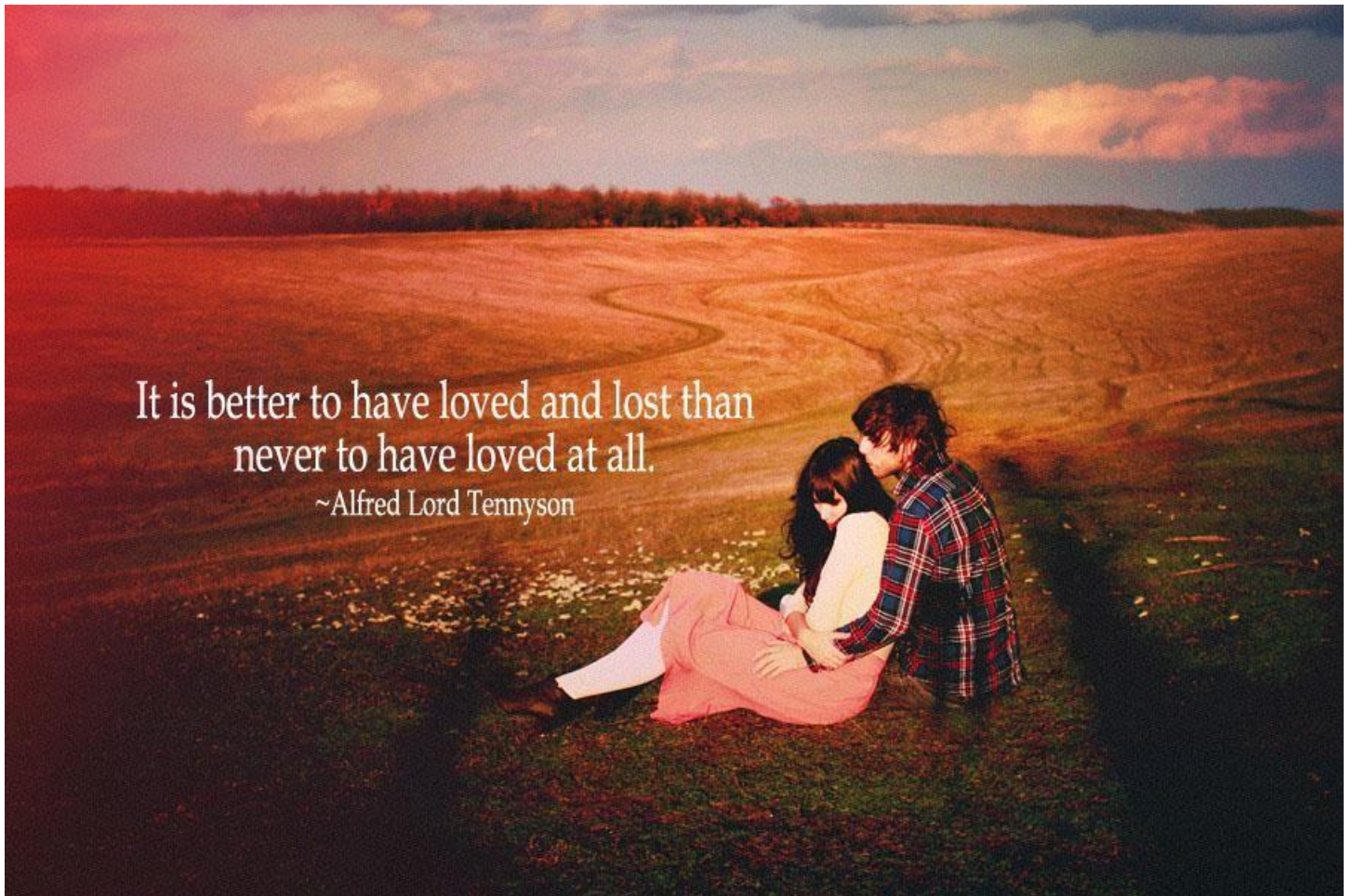
Meanwhile, some have been very generous in supporting the raw beginnings of what will become our 'Capital Campaign'. It turns out that whether we stay, or go . . . we need funds. If we relocate, we will need significant funding to cover the down payment, and to cover the expense of turning the property from a business center into a worship and Christian educational center.

And if we stay, we will need to raise significant funding to care for many aging related safety, functional, and deteriorating aesthetic conditions of our current properties (c. 1851, 1892, 1957, 1976). Our newest property is now over 40. If we want to continue to be a church that appears alive, vibrant, well kept, even attractive to those we would like to attract to Salem, we need to invest heavily if we stay.

So, if you have questions, ask them. If you are impatient, be patient (a fruit of the Spirit!) If you are able to invest in the future of the Lord's church at Salem, give generously to the capital campaign. You will be building for the future, one way or another.

As soon as the Salem Board has more to share, they will. Keep the faith! God is at work among us - and has GREAT plans for our future!





### **SO MANY LOSSES . . . .**

When people we love pass away, it is so hard to know what to say to the grieving families. So many things we might say can come out wrong, and be offensive. Sometimes, it is just best to be present, to be helpful, to give a hug, deliver a meal, to send a card.

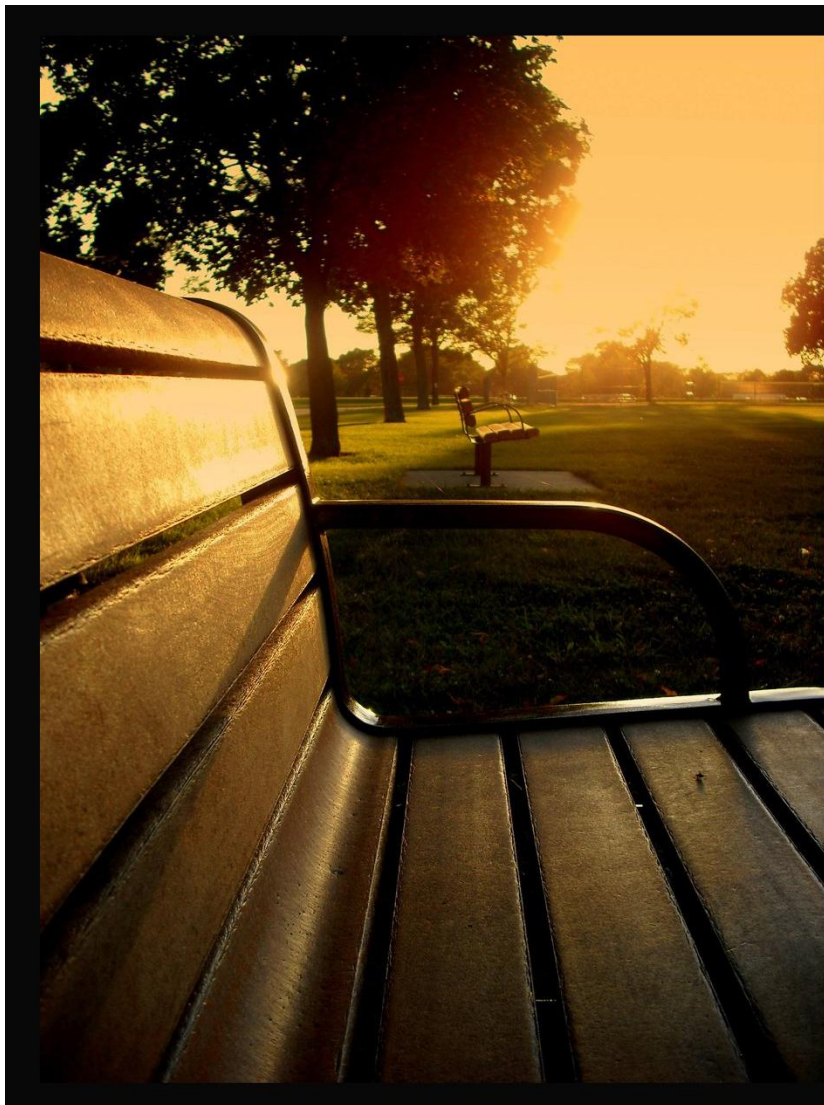
Yes, our loss IS heaven's gain, but for the one who has lost, this sentiment can be of little comfort. There is still a big, wide, deep gaping hole in the family.

Here are families who have loved and lost in recent months. Please pray about how you can be a source of encouragement and love for them during their grieving season; their walk down 'the valley of the shadow of death.' It can be a long and lonely valley for many.

- Jeana Wilmot (husband Tim, children Joey, Steven, and Abby) has lost the family patriarch, her dad, George Wells. George was a real sweet, southern gentleman, a patriot who served in the USAF, and became a TV repairman during his adult life. George and Wife Sharon had moved to Chambersburg some years back to be near Jeana, and Tim. A memorial service to give honor to George's memory, and to God, will be held here at 11 AM, Saturday July 1st; the entire church family is invited to come.
- Marvin Young, Blair and Alex Young have lost Sharon - a woman of great faith who was strong in her battle against colon cancer. Sharon loved her life, and had plans to share hospitality at the wonderful country home she had created for her family by opening a B&B one day. She will be greatly missed.

- Betty Sellers passed away several weeks ago following the spread of her lymphoma into multiple organs. She left behind several sons and families, the youngest of whom, Randy, lives here locally in Chambersburg.
- Kathy Frazer just a few weeks ago lost her older sister Peggy McNew, who had multiple medical challenges. It is hard to let go of brothers and sisters whom you have shared so much of life, and so much of love with.
- Sharpe Keller has had to surrender his beloved wife Edna (70 years of marriage) nearly a month ago. She had a deteriorating heart condition. Also grieving are Don, and his children and their families - Amy Mummert, and Mike Keller. Edna was a very quiet and shy individual, but one with a strong spirit, and inner beauty. We will miss her from among us.
- Phil Stoltzfus passed from this life back in March, and yet his was a particularly hard loss, because the family - and our church family - had prayed for a long time for him to have a third chance at life - a re-transplant of his failing lungs. He succumbed quickly due to the onset of some kind of infection; leaving a hard loss for wife Keah, son Kellan, his daughter, and grandsons.
- Chuck Black. Chuck (Gerald) went home to heaven more than a year ago due to the sudden onset of abdominal cancer. Missing him greatly are wife Joan, and daughters Tonya Stoner, and Lisa Myers, and six grandchildren.

So, pray for our families who have loved and lost. Love on them. Encourage them as you can. Thank you!



*Come to Me,  
all who are  
weary and  
heavy-laden,*

*and I will  
give you rest.*

*Matthew 11:28*



**SALEM PRAYER CORNER . . . Please be in prayer for . . . .**

✝ Missions Trip: Darlene P., Jack and Deb Weyant

✝ Hospital, or recovery

- Frank Gaugler, staph infection
- Mossie Sites, spinal compression fracture
- Bruce Carbaugh, heart bypass recovery
- DeWayne Hogue, heart valve recovery
- Pat Blaine, recovery from hernia surgery
- Lori Hogue, aneurysm surgery 7/6
- Payton Bowling, recovery, brain tumor
- Slugg; knee surgery recovery

✝ Grieving: see previous article

✝ Suffering from pain, discomfort, illness, treatment

- Julianna Shubert, ongoing disorder
- Bob Paxton - compression fracture spine
- Doris Guyer, heart issues, CDIF, blood loss
- Brandon Kissinger, Chiari Malformation
- Moyenne Telcius (Haitian), cancer
- Ray Bricker, Parkinsons

**LAST WORD: EYES**

Jesus taught his disciples about the eyes: ***“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light . . .”***

Simple, right? Healthy eyes let in the light - and your body is health, and light filled. The light of God!

Unhealthy eyes allow in the darkness. Soon, the body is covered in darkness - sin - depravity. Not good!

An old song taught to Sunday School children comes to mind:

*O be careful little eyes what you see  
O be careful little eyes what you see  
There's a Father up above  
And He's looking down in love  
So, be careful little eyes what you see*

May we train our eyes to look away from the many temptations available today, and be filled with light: the light of the Lord!

May He bless you as you seek Him!

Pastor Art

