

Apple of the Eye - cont.

Being in a cherished state does not mean that no punishment will follow when we disobey (Deuteronomy 32:21ff; Matthew 25:46). Even though we are cherished by God, his holy and just nature demands that he punish his wicked and unrepentant people.

God's people must cherish God's word...

Just as God cherishes his people, God's people must cherish God's word. God's people must "keep," "lay up," "bind them," "write them," and "say" God's word (Proverbs 7:1-5). God's word must be most desirable to God's people (Psalm 19:10; 119:1ff; Job 23:12). And, God's word must not be considered outdated, unreliable, or powerless. Do you cherish God's word like God cherishes you?

To cherish God and His word our eye must be "single" – focused and clear (Matthew 6:22-23; Luke 22:34). Do we need a spiritual eye exam (Matthew 13:15; Ephesians 1:18)? Do we see God's word with spiritual perception and understanding?

God cherishes us like "the apple of the eye." Let us do the same with his word. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Make a good life, not just a good living.
- Have the wisdom to say all that *should* be said, without saying all that *could* be said.
- A groundless rumor can cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time.
- Sometimes the bad habits that are too small to be felt, soon grow too strong to be broken.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Apple of the Eye

Deuteronomy 32:10

He found him in a desert land, And in the waste howling wilderness; He compassed him about, he cared for him, He kept him as **the apple of his eye**.

Psalms 17:8

Keep me as **the apple of the eye**; Hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

Proverbs 7:2

Keep my commandments and live; And my law as **the apple of thine eye**.

Lamentations 2:18

Their heart cried unto the Lord: O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night; Give thyself no respite; let not **the apple of thine eye cease**.

Zechariah 2:8

For thus saith Jehovah of hosts: After glory hath he sent me unto the nations which plundered you; for he that toucheth you toucheth **the apple of his eye**.

In the Old Testament, the words “apple of his eye” comes from a Hebrew phrase that means literally, “the little man of the eye”. The Hebrew words 'iyshown 'ayin refer to the small image of a person’s reflection seen in the pupil (Deuteronomy 32:10; Prov-

erbs 7:2). So, the “little man of the eye” is the reflection that you can see of yourself when you look closely into a person’s eye.

The Hebrew phrase in Psalm 17:8 and Lamentations 2:18 is “the daughter of the eye” (Heb. *bath*). The phrase in Zechariah 2:8 is “the gate of the eye” (Heb. *babah*).



Our English word “pupil” comes from the Latin word “pupul” and it refers to a small child. Again, you will notice the reference to the small image in the pupil.

The Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament (LXX) has “the apple of the eye” in Deuteronomy 32:10, Psalm 17:8, and Zechariah 2:8 (Greek *koreen*, a little girl). The words “the pupils of thine eyes” in Proverbs 7:2 comes from the Greek *koras*, meaning, young girl. “The apple of thine eyes” comes from the Greek

thugater, meaning, daughter.

The English phrase “apple of the eye” refers to the “pupil of the eye” because an apple is small and round like the pupil (see NASV). Figuratively speaking, it means something or someone that is cherished, precious, or carefully protected. Let’s consider some people and things that are cherished by God and his people.

God cherishes his people...

We are cherished by God through his providence of the natural world (Matthew 6:26), through his provisions of all that we need (Philippians 4:19), and through his patience in giving us time to change (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 2:21).

God’s people are cherished by God (Deuteronomy 32:10; Ephesians 1:3ff). This should bring us great comfort and hope. But, some among the cherished do not continue to follow God (Deuteronomy 32:15ff; Hebrews 6:4-6). The wayward and unfaithful among God’s people do not appreciate the fact that they are cherished by God. They do not realized their great blessings and so they give up and quit.

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