



The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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The Human Eye: Evidence of Our Creator

*“The hearing ear and the seeing eye,
The LORD has made them both.” - Proverbs 20:12*

Talk about precision cameras! The Lord God certainly provided us with not just one, but two when He created us – our eyes. Because we have two eyes instead of one, we can perceive depth. That is, we can tell how far off an object is, or how near comparatively. We can enjoy “3-D” vision. We can tell if an object is moving away from us or coming closer. We would certainly be in plenty of trouble without this ability. We would be bumping into doors, falling down stairs, being hit with various objects or missing our mouth when we eat. Thank God for two eyes!

Did you ever consider how wonderfully the eyes are protected? While they

are set right in front of the head where they might be easily injured, they’re safe because they’re indented. Seven interlocking bones provide a perfect protective socket. Then, over the eyes, to catch dust and ward off perspiration are small hair brushes called eyebrows and eyelashes. Some of you may have thought they were just a thing of beauty, but no, they’re primarily utilitarian. But, we must admit they are quite decorative as well.

Then, in each eye there is a marvelously efficient windshield cleaning apparatus. Each time you blink, the eyelid closes, but also a thin stream of special antiseptic, lysozyme and lactoferrin, washes “the windows of our soul”, disinfecting the eyes. The tears are pushed along into the tear duct passing down into the nose where allergens, dust and debris is collected, later to be coughed and sneezed forth.

These things are interesting, but we bow in absolute wonder when we consider the amazing composition of the eye. To be absolutely truthful, there are many things we do not know even in this day of

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Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am
6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

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investigation and learning. But what we do know causes us to gasp in wonder. For instance, there is a most efficient, self-adjusting, auto-focusing, crystalline lens. In less time than it takes to tell it, your eye perfectly adjusts to near

and far, and back again. You can look at a plane a mile off in the sky and your eye immediately focuses. Then, quickly look at your newspaper two feet distant and your eye instantly accommodates without having to even think about it. Your pupils, too, are most apt at adjusting one's depth of field and depth of focus. Their duty is constantly to regulate and protect your eyes to degrees of light. With bright light they swiftly contract so that the delicate mechanism behind them may be protected. In dim light they open wide. I wonder who arranged all these things. We know, of course.

Or just consider the physical properties of the eyes. They're wonderfully made. Seven sets of muscles placed at strategic points automatically turn the eyes to any desired position swiftly, quietly and efficiently. One eye muscle, the superior oblique, even loops back through a small hook or eye in one of the socket bones creating leverage for torsional eye movements. How amazing is that? Over the system flows a constant stream of specially prepared lubricant making the operation beautifully effective.

The retina, is the living "movie screen" at the rear of the eye. It is made up of

12 layers of highly sophisticated sensory cells. It is filled, and I do mean filled, with light sensitive rods and cones and other cells which in reality are nerve ends. There are over 100,000,000 of these nerve ends in each eye. Some are for color, some for distance, some for shape and some for size. Attached to these cones are nerve cables, multitudes of them (338,000), which carry the light impulse, or what we call the pictures of what the eyes are seeing, swiftly to the occipital lobe of the brain.

The retina of the eye is really part of the brain. Next to blood cells, the retinal cells are the smallest in the body. Magnified a million times, they would look something like a table covered with upright matchboxes with the tips upward. Seeing is accomplished through something like the process of making pictures. It's all done with points of light, similar to the pixellation on the computer screen but much more complex. Only with pictures we use about 50 dots per centimeter, while the eye uses approximately 3,500.

Truly, the eye is marvelous. On the retinal chessboard there are more than 100,000 fields upon which to move back and forth. The cones, of course,

are used more for daylight and color vision; the rods more for night and black and white vision. And, in creatures such as chickens, which God intended to be day-creatures, we find only cones. And in night birds, such as owls and bats, we find only rods.

The eyelids move together at 6 second intervals throughout life. That totals altogether approximately a quarter-million times in one's life.

What a wealth of beauty is open to our souls through our eyes. All of God's creative glory can be viewed. His divine nature and awesome character can be clearly seen in all His creation, through His creation of our eyes. The sunsets, the blue, blue sky, the grandeur of the mountains, the canyons, the rivers and seas. What a blessing is ours to be able to see Him in all these things.

God fashioned our eyes to see in this life, yet no one is quite so blind as those who fail to see Him. May we never lose sight of God, our Creator, and may we never cease to behold His glory and praise Him!

(Adapted from an article sent to me, written by W. Orr with reference material from D. Vaughn and T. Asbury, *General Ophthalmology*)
- Jeff Haught