

THE IMAGE OF SIN

Jp Fourie

How many hours are there in a day?

- 24 hours

How many do we use on average for sleeping?

- 8 hours

How many on average for work?

- 8 hours

So how many is left for us, for recreation, our free time?

- Only 8 hours

Dividing the remaining 8 hours into daily tasks and entertainment leaves us with:

Preparation of Meals?

Morning	1 hour
Afternoon	30 minutes
Evening	1 hour

Bathing or showering?

- 30 minutes

We are then left with only **5 hours remaining** in a day for ourselves.

How do we spend those hours?

According to the Harvard School of Public Health:

“Television (TV) watching is the favorite pastime in the U.S., and it’s become the favorite in many other parts of the world, too. After work (**How many hours?**) and sleep (**How many hours?**), TV viewing is the most commonly reported activity in the U.S (**We saw it said “in many other parts of the world too”**), taking up just over half of all leisure time. (**How many hours remains after sleep and work is deducted? Only 8, the report says just over half of that 8 hours.**) (1) Similarly, in Australia, people spend about half of their free time watching TV, and across several countries in Europe, television takes up about 40 percent of people’s leisure time. (2,3) In the U.S., people **average about five hours of TV** time each day, and in a few European countries, TV time rivals or exceeds that of the U.S. (4)” – Harvard School of Public Health

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/obesity-prevention-source/obesity-causes/television-and-sedentary-behavior-and-obesity/>

Is this the case for everyone?

Would everyone here agree that this is the case for most homes? I’m not saying this is the case in your home. I’m saying this is the case in the **majority of homes, whether SDA, Christian or Worldly**, I know it was the case **in my home**. I would take every minute I can get, to watch something on TV, even if there was nothing, I would still watch.

Question?

Where’s God in all this? When do you get time for God? When do you read the Bible? When do you pray? When do you study the Bible?

Is studying the Bible Important?

JOB 23:12

“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed **the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.**”

We are to regard God's Word's more than our food!

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

“Study to shew thyself **approved unto God**, a workman that **needeth not to be ashamed**, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Who here wants to show themselves approved unto God? Who here does not want to be ashamed?

Example:

Debbie is currently studying to get her degree in Logistics.

Debbie, can you get your degree without studying? Her answer was “NO”

Can you without studying show yourself approved unto your teachers? Her answer was “NO”

If you do not study, will you be ashamed of your test results? Her answer was “YES”

....

If this is the case for the world, why do we think it is not necessary for Christianity?

The Bible says we need to study scripture to show ourselves approved unto God.

We have to study scripture so that we do not need to be ashamed.

We need to study scripture so that we can learn to rightly divide the word of truth. Amen?

1 PETER 3:15

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always** to **give an answer** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

If we do not study scripture, we won't be ready to give any answers to questions that people might ask us concerning our believes. We won't know what it says in the “word of truth” and we would be ashamed not being able to show ourselves approved unto God.

It's important to study God's Words, but we need time to do it, unfortunately it seems everybody is using the only time they have to watch TV.

But is that the only negative thing from watching TV?

.....

Let's turn to:

ROMANS 1:28-32

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, **fornication**, wickedness, **covetousness**, maliciousness; full of envy, **murder**, **debate**, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, **haters of God**, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents**, Without understanding, **covenantbreakers**, without natural affection, implacable, **unmerciful**: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which **commit such things are worthy of death**, not only **do the same**, but have **pleasure in them that do them**.”

Firstly we see that there are **people who does not want to know God**, then a **list of various sins** are given including murder, debate, fornication, covetousness, haters of God, disobedient to parents, covenant breakers.

It continues to say “Who knowing the judgment of God”,

What is the judgment of God: “they which commit such things are worthy of death”

Who here on earth knows the Judgment of God?

Can people who do not know God know His judgment? NO!

It's talking about Christians.

Let me paraphrase that part for you:

[PARAPHRASED] ROMANS 1:32

“**Christians** who knows the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them”

Let's bring that **closer to home**:

[PARAPHRASED] ROMANS 1:32

“**Seventh-Day Adventists** who knows the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them”

We as Christians have come to a point where we do what the heathens do, we commit the same sins, not just that but we enjoy looking at them sinning.

So most of us would say ok, so we understand we should not be committing the sins of the heathens but just looking at it is not all that bad, right?

Well what did King David say?

PSALM 101:3

“I will set **no wicked** thing **before mine eyes**: **I hate the work of them that turn aside**; it shall **not cleave to me**.”

We are not to look upon sin if we hate sin, otherwise it would cling to us, it would abide, stay with us. We also see here that King David did not want to look at sin because he hated it.

We should not enjoy looking at sin but hate it, we see that if we look at sin it might affect us, let's see if we can get that principle somewhere else in the Bible, let's turn to:

LAMENTATIONS 3:51

“Mine **eye affecteth mine heart** because of all the daughters of my city.”

His eyes have an influence over his heart.

ACTS 8:22

“Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the **thought of thine heart** may be forgiven thee.”

The Bible gives us understanding regarding to what the heart is, it is our mind whereby we think and where thoughts originate from.

So our **minds and feelings are affected** by what we look at according to Scripture.

We can see this happening in the life of David.

2 SAMUEL 11:2-4

“And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he **saw a woman washing herself**; and **the woman was very beautiful to look upon**. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and **he lay with her**; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.”

Everything started after he SAW Bathsheba washing herself, instead of looking away the Bible said she was very beautiful to look upon.

David’s mind and feelings were affected the moment he saw her bathing herself. He desired her in his thoughts and send his messengers to go get her, and then he slept with her.

2 SAMUEL 12:9

“Wherefore hast thou **despised the commandment of the LORD**, to **do evil** in his sight? thou hast **killed Uriah** the Hittite with the sword, and hast **taken his wife** to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.”

By looking at something which David was not supposed to look at he ended up being an adulterer and murderer.

Even Jesus talks about this in Matthew:

MATTHEW 5:27 - 28

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

If we look at a woman thinking about sleeping with her, God knows If given the opportunity we would do it.

So it is clear that by looking at sin it can affect our minds to such a degree that we start to have pleasure in looking at sin, which will lead us to commit the sin not just in our minds but in reality.

This is also the case when looking at something which might not be sin but it is not for us to look at. Bathsheba was not sinning in taking a bath but David was not supposed to look at her.

That’s why Jesus said:

MATTHEW 6:22-23

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine **eye be single**, thy **whole body** shall be **full of light**. But if thine **eye be evil**, thy **whole body** shall be **full of darkness**. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, **how great is that darkness!**”

*Looking at **evil things** or things we are **not supposed to look at** makes us to be **full of darkness** whereas looking at **good things** makes us to be **full of light***

JOHN 12:46

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”

Jesus says He is the light and that those who really believe in Him will not look at evil things, they will not abide in darkness.

JOHN 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Here we see that some prefer to live in darkness rather than to follow Christ, they enjoy darkness. We saw in **Romans 1:32** that even Seventh-day Adventists commit the sins on that list and have pleasure in looking at the heathens committing those sins. We learned that enjoying to look at sin makes us full of darkness. Jesus says He is the light and that we much rather prefer to enjoy looking at sin than to follow Him.

JOHN 8:12

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**”

If we as Seventh-Day Adventist claim to love God we would follow Christ and not walk or love the darkness. We will not have an Evil eye.

1 JOHN 1:6

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, **we lie**, and do not the truth:”

If we say we love Jesus yet we walk in darkness, if we find pleasure in looking at others sinning, Jesus says we lie, we don't really love Him.

EPHESIANS 5:11

“And have **no fellowship** with the **unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather **reprove them.**”(Expose)

Friends let's look at **Romans 1:32** again:

ROMANS 1:28-32

“And even as they did not **like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, **fornication**, wickedness, **covetousness**, maliciousness; full of envy, **murder**, **debate**, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, **haters of God**, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents**, Without understanding, **covenantbreakers**, without natural affection, implacable, **unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God**, that they which **commit such things are worthy of death**, not only **do the same**, but have **pleasure in them that do them.**”

To retain God in your knowledge you should be learning each day about God, Without God the list of sins follow.

Look at the list given, do we know movies or programs on TV that includes “Fornication, covetousness, murder, debate, children who are disobedient to their parents, people who hate God, people who brake God's covenant, or who shows no mercy towards others?”

I know there is almost no program left on TV without sin in it.

I used to collect Movies, had my own collection, from comedies, action, romance, sci-fi even cartoons.

As I started to study the Word of God I noticed that each DVD is “Preaching” against one of our doctrines. It was speaking against God's commandments.

If God said “Thou shalt not murder”, the movie would have people killing each other in it.

Why do we even like action films?

It's because we love the action, the killing in it, the murders.

God says the Heathens do these things, they love darkness but he says there are Seventh-Day Adventists who like to watch the heathens sinning. They have pleasure in it.

So I would take each DVD compare it to God's Word and if it does not measure up to it I would destroy it, guess how many DVD's I have in my house now?

NONE.

*Movies are teaching a different Gospel, **which Gospel do we prefer?***

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

By beholding the glory of God we are changed into the same image, into the image of the glory of God.

Brothers if we are changed into the image of the glory of God by beholding God, into what image are we changed if we behold sin?

-The Image of SIN-

AMEN.