

Totes Oculus

by Thomas Brooks

A sincere Christian labors to approve himself to God in all places and times, seeking His approval above all else.

Scripture: Matthew 6:1

Topics: "God's Omniscience", "Sincerity in Faith"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the distinction between hypocrites and sincere Christians, using the nightingale as a metaphor for those who only perform well when being observed. He argues that a true believer seeks to please God at all times, regardless of whether anyone else is watching. Just as the sun shines brightly even when unseen, a sincere heart strives to do good for God's approval alone. The assurance of God's acknowledgment is sufficient for the faithful, providing them with joy and encouragement in their service. Ultimately, Brooks highlights the importance of a heart focused on God rather than on human recognition.

Transcript

They say of the nightingale, that when she is solitary in the woods, she is careless of her melody; but when she perceives that she has any auditors, or is near houses--then she composes herself more harmoniously and elegantly. Truly, this is the frame and temper of the best of hypocrites. Oh! but a sincere Christian labors in all places, and in all times, to approve himself to God. He labors as much to approve himself to God in a forest, where no eye sees him --as he does when the eyes of thousands are fixed upon him. The sun would shine bright, though all men were asleep at

high noon, and no eyes open to see the glory of his beams.
Just so, a sincere heart will shine, he will labor to do good;
though all the world should shut their eyes; yet he will eye
his work, and eye his God. He knows that God is totes
oculus--all eye, and therefore he cares not though others
have never an eye to observe him, to applaud him. Let God
but secretly whisper to him in the ear, and say, "Well done,
good and faithful servant!" and it is enough to his soul,
enough to satisfy him, enough to cheer him, and enough
to encourage him in the ways and the work of his God.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/totes-oculus/>

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