

GOD'S

MIRROR

JAMES 1:21-25

To see ourselves as we really are is one of the most difficult things to do.

For many of us it is hard to look in the mirror each morning and see what is staring back.

Often we deceive ourselves and fantasize that we look better than what we actually do.

Sometimes we don't like what we see and other times we like what we see.

Today we want to talk about looking into God's mirror, the perfect law of liberty.

How do we look in this mirror?

Do we like what we see?

The Bible allows us to see our spiritual condition as God sees it.

Some people look into a mirror and decide it is time for a face-lift.

We need to look into God's mirror and see if it is not time for a spiritual face-lift.

With God's mirror, the Bible, we see three things:

What We Are.

What We Can Be.

What We Will Be.

The Bible Shows Us What We Are.

What is the function of a mirror?

To reveal ourselves to us so we can improve the way we look.

So it is with the Bible?

If the picture is not what it should be, we must change ourselves.

When we look in a mirror, and don't like what we see, we don't change the mirror.

But today, many people try to change the Bible when they see their life is not in harmony with it.

The great example of Jesus should help us to see ourselves in the proper perspective.

When we measure ourselves by what we see in His life, it should bring home to us the great truth found in  
I John 1:8:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

We are to pattern our life after God and Christ.

I Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

With these verse in mind let's notice two more.

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

I Peter 2:22

He committed no sin.

Jesus lived a sinless and perfect life.

So if we are to pattern our life after Him, how do we measure up?

Jesus showed us what righteous living can and should be.

When we study the Bible and look into God's mirror, we see ourselves as we really are.

We see just how short we fall.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The Bible Shows Us What We Can Be.

A mirror would serve no purpose unless changes  
were possible.

A dirty face can be washed.

A sinner can have his sins washed away.

Revelation 1:5

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

I John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

When God looked down on sinful man he saw something worth saving.

Romans 5:8

But God shows His love toward us in that while we yet sinners Christ died for us.

We don't understand this and really can't explain it.

Ephesians 3:19

And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

We cannot save ourselves nor can our own works of goodness save us.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Only the blood of Christ can take away our sins.

Matthew 26:28

For this My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Just looking in the mirror doesn't clean the face.

Just reading and studying the Bible doesn't bring the  
cleansing power of Christ's blood.

There is something for us to do to be made clean.

Only when we "do his will" will the blood of Christ  
cleanse us.

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
deceiving yourselves.

Luke 6:46

But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord' and not do the  
things I say.

I Peter 1:22

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth  
through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love  
one another fervently with a pure heart.

When we trust Him enough to do what He said, we  
will be cleansed by His blood.

In spite of being sinners we can still be saved.

How?

Romans 6:4

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## I Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lust, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also must be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

This transformation is possible only for the children of obedience, who look into the mirror of God’s word, “being not a hearer that forgets but a doer that acts.”

## The Bible Shows Us What We Will Be.

The Bible as a mirror, reflects our present spiritual condition.

If we are hearers only, and not doers of the word, this mirror reveals our eternal destiny.

If we see by God's mirror that we do not measure up to what He wants, we must consider the judgment.

## Hebrews 10:26-31

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For since we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

As unpleasant as it may seem to be for many people, the judgment will be based on our works.

## Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

## Romans 14 :12

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

## II Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

The judgment will not be based on family, wealth, popularity, our place in society, or any other earthly standard.

We will be judged individually, by our works.

If we lived for self and sin, we will hear Jesus say:

“Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels,” Matthew 25:41.

But for the Christian what a “blessed assurance” it will be.

I John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

I John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

The Bible is the mirror that tells us how we look as we stand before God.

If we are saved the Bible reveals that to us.

If we are lost the Bible reveals that to us also.

When we mold our lives by the pattern revealed in the word, we have the assurance of eternal life.

James 1:25

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer that acts, this man will be blessed in his doing.

HOW DO YOU  
LOOK  
ACCORDING  
TO  
GOD'S  
MIRROR?

Given by David Hamlin 2-04-07 am

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