

A MIRROR FOR THE SOUL

A mirror is probably one of the most honest things there is. It doesn't lie. Every time one looks into a mirror there is an accurate reflection of exactly what we are. About the only way to make a mirror lie is to distort it. Even then, the reflection is not flattering.

James says looking into the Bible one can see self in his natural face. This means bare bones, nothing doctored up. An actor can be made up to appear very different than natural, but that becomes hypocrisy. The word hypocrite is an old word for an actor, one who pretends to be someone else. The Bible rips away the veneer of pretense and lays bare what we are in God's view.

The Mirror of the Soul reveals the origin of the soul (Genesis 2:7). It equally tells us the great value of the soul (Matthew 16:26). The mirror God gives us also shows us our personal defects and shortcomings (Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Most important of all it shows us the eternal destiny of the soul (Matthew 25:46).

The mirrors we use sometimes get smudged and dirty. Good housekeepers will clean them with diligence. A dirty mirror tends to blur our vision of what we actually look like. When clean, a better and accurate image is reflected. The word of God is ever clean and pure (Psalm 12:6). It never fails to show us what the Lord thinks of us.

James pictures one who, after seeing self in God's mirror, instantly walks away and forgets what was seen. The tenses show that one takes a look (once) then instantly ignores it, and continues to avoid the mirror. The only one blessed is the honest person who sees self as God sees him, makes whatever corrections are needed, and does what God would have him do. Take a good look at yourself in the Bible. What do you see? What does God see?

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer; he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:23-25).

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Victory belongs to the most persevering. - Napoleon Bonaparte

20 Reasons to Attend Bible Class

Orange Avenue Church of Christ
Eustis, Florida

1. To obey the command of God to study the Bible. (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Peter 1:15).
2. To grow in knowledge (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).
3. To grow closer to God and increase faith (Rom. 10:17).
4. To become a more effective teacher (Heb. 5:13-6:1).
5. To be with Jesus and let Jesus be your teacher (John 6:45; Eph. 4:20-21).
6. To be with and associate with the best people on Earth (1 John 4:7-8; Heb. 10:24-25).
7. To become stronger (Psm. 119:165; 2 Peter 1:5-11).
8. To feed your soul (Jer. 15:16; Psm. 119:103).
9. To find answers (Psm. 119:99; John 7:17).
10. To overcome sin (1 John 5:4; Matt. 4:4).
11. To gain wisdom (2 Tim. 3:15; Psm. 119:130).
12. To follow the example of the godly (Heb. 13:7).
13. To set a good example for others (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Tim. 4:12).
14. To satisfy our love and desire to learn the word of God (Psm. 1:2; 19:7-10; 119:72, 97).
15. To prepare to give an answer to defend the faith (1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3).
16. To prepare for and quench the fiery darts of the devil (Eph. 6:10-18).
17. To become better equipped to serve others (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
18. To keep priorities properly balanced (Matt. 6:33).
19. To follow my Shepherd's guidance (Heb. 13:7).
20. To get ready for the final test (John 12:48; Rev. 20:12).

- via MESSENGER,
Bridge Street Church of Christ,
New Martinsville, WV -

News & Notes

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Scharlotte Jones.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited to participate in this good work to make bears for kids in the hospital.

MEN'S LEADERSHIP CLASSES: The last class for this series is this Tuesday, May 30th at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, June 3rd, 8:00 a.m. at Connie's Corner. Men are invited to join in this time of fellowship.

FOX NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, June 3rd, 2:30 p.m.

GRADUATION PARTY: For MaClay Moore next Saturday, June 3rd, 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. All are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet on the desk in the foyer **TODAY**.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: Next Sunday, June 4th about Noon at the Fellowship Building. Bring a covered dish and join in this time of fellowship.

GRADUATION BANQUET: Saturday, June 17th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 19-23, 7:00 p.m. with Gary Bailey teaching the adult class.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP: July 10-15. Teachers are needed. If you would like to teach, a sign-up sheet is on the desk in the foyer. Submit camp applications ASAP.

PANTRY: Instant potatoes.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYER & CARDS: Margie Chisler (Peggy Williams' sister), 1596 Daybrook Road, Fairview, WV 26570. Margie has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Blondenia Orr, Eva Stefl, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Lewis Call (Cindy Miskimen's dad). **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick, **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

SINS THAT DESTROY A CHURCH

We know that God's plan was for a strong, sound, powerful church with Jesus as Lord, and a strong militant army marching shoulder to shoulder behind Him. But, we also know that His army can be defeated, this army can be hobbled, this army can be crippled. Here is a list of the sins that are guaranteed to destroy the church.

1. ABSENTEEISM: Failing to assemble (Heb. 10:25).
2. INDIFFERENCE: Apathetic (Rev. 3:15).
3. WORLDLINESS: Caught up by things of the world (1 John 2:15-17).
4. SELFISHNESS: Self-centered (Phil. 2:4).
5. NEGLIGENCE: Disregard, carelessness (Heb. 2:3).
6. DIVISIVENESS: Creating disunity or dissension (1 Cor. 1:10).
7. COVETOUSNESS: Desiring more and more; idolatry (Col 3:5).

We urge you all to do your best to avoid these seven sins. May God give us strength to keep His church pure. (James 1:12).

- Author Unknown -