

God's Mirror for Man's Soul

Scripture Reading: James 1:21-25

Introduction

(Show audience open Bible with mirror inside)

- **A mirror doesn't lie – it reflects you as you really are.**
- 1. **The Bible is God's mirror for the soul.**
- 2. **By using this mirror man can learn his own character and the needs of his soul.**
- 3. **It enables man to see himself as God sees him.**

The Function of this Mirror

1. **It reveals the "origin" of the soul.**

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.

- A. **Some say all this means is man became a living being.**
- B. **This is true, man did become a living being, but there is a difference between man and beast.**
 - 1) **Simply having life on earth is not all there is to man.**

2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the **inward man is being renewed** day by day.

C. Man was created in God's image.**Genesis 1:26-27**

- 1) **There is a physical difference between man and other created things.**

1 Cor 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fish, and another of birds.

- 2) **There is also a difference in spirit.**

Eccl 3:21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, **which goes upward**, and the spirit of the animal, **which goes down** to the earth?

Heb 12:9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily **be in subjection to the Father of spirits** and live?

Zech 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and **forms the spirit of man** within him:

D. The outcome of our faith in Christ is the saving of our soul.

1 Pet 1:9 receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of your souls.

- 1) **Can man destroy our soul?**

Matt 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body **but cannot kill the soul**. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- a. **We've looked at "the origin" of the soul, that it was given by God and will be taken back by God.**

2. **The function of this mirror reveals the "value" of the soul.**

Matt 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

A. God placed enough value on the soul that he made it so that man couldn't destroy it. (Matt 10:28)

1) Can man bring physical death? Can he stop the breath of another?

a. We know that this can happen and happens often! But man cannot bring death to the soul.

Eccl 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

3. **The function of this mirror reveals the "disfigurement" of the Soul.**

**A. It is called "works of the flesh".
Galatians 5:19-21**

**B. Minds are corrupted - become reprobate concerning the faith.
2 Timothy 3:1-8**

1) Men of depraved mind - disfiguring the soul; the soul God gave them!

C. It begins to be disfigured as an attitude of mind.

2 Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

4. **The function of this mirror also reveals the "destiny" of the Soul.**

A. Since God owns it, the soul will go to one of two places; Heaven or Hell! (Matt 25:31-46)

The Proper Use of this Mirror:

- **We can only correct our physical appearance as often as we look in the mirror.**

1. Use the Word constantly.

A. Day and night.

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

B. Let it dwell within us.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- 1) Let's make sure that His Word abides in us.
(1 Pet 3:15; 2 Pet 3:18; 2 Tim 2:15)**

2. Use the Word skillfully.

A. Handle it accurately. (See above - 2 Tim 2:15)

B. Speak as God's oracles - only God's message.

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God....

C. Keep things in context within the scriptures.

2 Pet 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist (NASB - DISTORT) to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

3. Be obedient to God's word. Meaning to use it obediently.

- **There is no profit in looking at our self in the mirror and not making the needed corrections.**
 - A. **There is no profit in just hearing the word and then not doing what God has asked us to do.**

James 1:23-24 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.

1) **This person simply looks and leaves - nothing is done.**

B. **There is only profit when one hears and then acts.**

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 of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

1) **This person looks and continues abiding and doing God's will.**

C. **We can be changed. Let God's mirror (His Word) reflect upon you in such a way that you will see the need for change to do God's will.**

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

