

Using The Spiritual Mirror

“*Mirror, mirror on the wall...*” so the rhyme from a make-believe children’s story goes, and this mirror is supposedly able to talk.

God has a mirror that is also supposed to be talking to us.

James 1:23 [NIV] “*Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror*”

James likens God’s Word, the Christian Bible, to a mirror.

Why do we look into physical mirrors every day?

To see how we look to other people, the real image of ourselves.

Each of us has a mental image of how we imagine we look to other people.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 [NIV] “*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”*”

Our “heart” or “mind” can deceive us, we are not always what we like to think we are.

Job 7:17-18 [King James] “*What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?*”

God is watching us under a magnifying glass, visiting us every morning as we start our waking day, and testing our reactions to every situation we experience during the day.

Understanding this, don’t we need to be looking into God’s “spiritual mirror” on a daily basis!!

We look in a physical mirror to see if we have any dirty marks on our face.

We look into God’s “spiritual mirror” for instance the 10 Commandments to see if we have the dirt of sin in our character.

The Word of God uses the word “face” to relate to the character of a person, even physically our face can reflect our character at times.

Romans 7:7, 12-13 [NIV] “*What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” ... “So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognised as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”*”

God’s Law shows us what sin is.

John 13:34-35 [NIV] “*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*”

A new commandment given by God through Jesus Christ.

Romans 13:8-10 [NIV] *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.”*

Any act or thought that is not based on love is sin.

Why?

1 John 4:16 [NIV] *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

As God is love any unloving act is not expressing the character of God in our life.

James 1:19-27 [NIV] *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

God’s Word shows us how we can reflect God’s Love in a practical physical way.

The final judgement of our lives by Jesus Christ will be based on how we reflect God’s Love in our day-to-day lives.

Matthew 25:31-46 [NIV] *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*

This judgement before Jesus Christ will come to every human being who ever existed.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 [NIV] *“But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.”*

If we look into the mirror of God's Word now and judge our lives according to what it tells us, we will **not** be condemned in the time of judgement as the world, those who do **not** look into God's "*spiritual mirror*" will be judged.