

Sermon ~ Sunday, August 8th, 2021, (Youth Sunday) by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: James 1: 23, 24

Title: The Mirror!

[Before we read our **SCRIPTURE** text for this morning, I want to remind all of us (Parents/Youth-Children...Children-Youth/Parents) the first lesson Life teaches is “*service!*” When a **GOD** blesses Husbands/Wives with a baby(s), the parents teach “*service*” (feeding, cleaning, protecting, comforting, the difference between crying and winning, junk food and health food, etc. -- Service. And when the baby becomes an Adult and the Adult becomes the Baby, the teaches should not be forgotten!!!

Text, James 1: 23, 24...

KJV ~ v. 23, “For if any be a hearer of **The WORD**, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

v. 24, for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway [immediately] forgetteth what manner of man he was.”

NLT ~ v. 23, “For *if* (since) you just listen and don’t obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror BUT doing nothing to improve your appearance.

v. 24, you see yourself, walk away, and forget what you [heard, and] look like.”
[You easily become everything else, except (**GOD’S purpose**) and who you *saw*]

Amplified Bible ~

v. 23, “For if anyone only listens to **The WORD** without obeying it, [result] he is like a man who looks very carefully at his natural [physical, carnal, worldly] face in a mirror;

v. 24, For [*once*] he has looked at himself and gone away, he immediately forgets what [he *heard* and what he *saw*] he looked like.”

Point: If we forget, others will never know who we really are and **WHOSE** we are!!!

Question? What is a “mirror” good for?

- It shows the state (condition) we are in... (messy hair, drool-salvia from a hard sleep, Food between your teeth, dirt on your face) It shows what’s wrong with our face.
- Also, help us change to become what we ought to be. Its for transformation...
The Word of GOD, transforms us into image of **GOD’S SON—JESUS CHRIST, WHO is GOD HIMSELF.**

Question? The time spent *studying* **The Bible** is never wasted. True or False?

- However, when we leave without heeding...?

In the *context*, James, the Apostle/author, is writing to “*scattered believers*”: they *ran* away from Jerusalem—*running* away... from ‘persecution’ – to be hunted; brought down, beaten down; suppressed, punished for their conviction—**CHRISTian**...

Examples: Pharoah in Egypt (Exodus 1) demanded that Hebrew midwives killed the Hebrew baby boys, while they set on the stools. Herod the King of Bethlehem (Matthew 2) for fear of **The Baby JESUS** born **KING of The Jews**, had 1,000's of children killed from two years old and under. Decius, Roman Emperor (AD 250-251) had 1,000's of **CHRISTIANS** killed who refused to offer sacrifices to his Name.

[Thou not *physically* but *mentally*, Parents of the 50's/60's (few today), put **The Fear of GOD** in us by saying, "I brought into this world, and I'll take you out!"]

So, James exhorts them (us), "Count it all joy..." – it's designed to "grow your **Faith in GOD!**"

Point: "Turn your *trials* into *testimonies*!!!"

"Trust and *obey*, for there's no other way,
To be happy *in JESUS*, BUT to trust and *obey!*"

How?

Amplified Bible ~

v. 23, "For if anyone only listens to **The WORD** without obeying it, [result] he is like a man who looks very carefully at his natural [physical, carnal, worldly] face in a mirror;

v. 24, For [once] he has looked at himself and gone away, he immediately forgets what [he *heard* and what he *saw*] he looked like."

Point: Many appear to think that *blessings* result from hearing [listening] to

The WORD of GOD... So, they make an effort to attend... NO! True *blessings* occur from "doing" because of hearing [listening] to **The WORD of GOD!**

Like the Mirror, most walk away from **The WORD of GOD** *unchanged* because:

- They try to solve their problem(s) they see [hear] in their own strength, their own way! Settling, this is it, and there is *no* hope. NOT True! **JESUS** promised, "I will pray **The FATHER**, and **HE** shall send you another **COMFORTER**, that **HE** may abide with you forever; Even **The SPIRIT of Truth; WHOM** the world cannot receive, because it seeth HIM not, neither knoweth **HIM**: but ye know **HIM**; for **HE** dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14: 16, 17)
- They don't know why we Study [Read, Meditate, Digest] **The BIBLE**. **JESUS** said, "Get away Satan! For it is written *and* forever remains written, 'One shall worship **The LORD our GOD** and serve **HIM** only.'"
- They are scared to admit their sin. They think, they will "*lose face*," that is, be *embarrassed or humiliated, no longer respected*. Even if, its your own face in the mirror. The result, "*running* from the shame you feel, at the thought of the *sin*. *Avoiding* others. Here's The Truth of the matter... "Forgiveness is right on the other side of Confession!" "If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, **HE [JESUS]** is faithful and just [true to **HIS** own *Nature* and *Promises*], and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us *continually* from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with **HIS WILL** and *purpose*]. (I John 1: 9)
JESUS has already paid *the price*, so **GOD** is waiting with open arms for us to confess...

JUST as I am...