

Sermon ~ Sunday, August 15, 2021, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: James 1: 25

Title: The Mirror! (2)

KJV ~ “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

Amplified Bible ~ “But he who looks carefully [intently] into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, [*freedom*] and faithfully *abides* by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who *obeys*], he will be blessed *and* favored by **GOD** in what he does [in his life of *obedience*].”

The “mirror” reflects “what we look like” on the *outside*...

The Bible [The WORD of GOD] reflects “who we really are” on the *inside*...

Question? What’s really your reason for not “Reading your **Bible [GOD’S WORD]**?”

Did you note the first *word* in our text?

“But” ... it’s a conjunction used to introduce “*something contrasting*” with what has already been mentioned... So, in the ‘*b*’ part of vs. 24...

KJV ~ “...and goeth his way, [turning from the mirror] and straightway forgetteth [unlikely to revisit] what manner of man he was.”

Amplified Bible ~ “for *once* he has looked at himself [*in The WORD of GOD*] and gone away, [unfazed and move on with the day] he immediately *forgets* what he looked like.”

James 1: 25, says, “But...”

[Great “but” verses in The Bible... Hebrews 11: 6, Isaiah 53: 5, John 16: 33, John 3: 16, Romans 6: 23, Philippians 4: 19... All *Promises* of **GOD/JESUS CHRIST**]

Another, v. 25, “But he who looks carefully [intently] into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, [*freedom*] and faithfully *abides* by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who *obeys*], he will be blessed *and* favored by **GOD** in what he does [in his life of *obedience*].”

Let me ask another Question? Have you ever seen yourself *in The Bible [The WORD of GOD?]*

KJV ~ “For **The WORD of GOD** *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4: 12)

Amplified Bible ~ “For **The WORD of GOD** *is* living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4: 12)

Question? Have you ever seen yourself *in The Bible [The WORD of GOD?]*

James gives us 3 practical ways to use **The WORD of GOD** as a “mirror” ...

1. Read it. Better yet, Let **The WORD of GOD** read you! How?

NOT *casually* but *carefully*! LOOK “*intently*” With earnest and eager attention, concentration!

DoNOT just *glance* (like in a mirror) and quickly walk away, forgetting all the details.

BUT “*gaze,*” LOOK *steadily*...

Oh, you may have to *cry* sometimes...

“...weeping my endure for a night, BUT Joy *cometh* in the morning.” (Psalm 30: 5b)

Oh, you may have to *cry* sometimes...

“Before I was afflicted, I went astray: BUT now have I kept [I keep *and* honor **THY WORD** [with *loving obedience*].”

2. Review it. This is the person who does not just LOOK *once* into **GOD’S WORD**, BUT *continues* to do so. This person comes to **GOD’S WORD** over and over.

KJV ~ “Then said **JESUS** to those Jews which believed *on HIM*, If ye continue *in MY WORD*, then are ye **MY** disciples indeed; And ye shall know **The TRUTH**, and **The TRUTH** shall make you free.” (John 8: 31, 32)

3. Remember it. What good is it to *read GOD’S WORD*, walk away, and them don’t remember what you heard.

KJV ~ “**THY WORD** have I hid [treasured and stored] in my heart, that I might not *sin* against **THEE**.” (Psalm 119: 11)

What helps in remembering is “writing **The WORD** down.” That’s giving **The WORD of GOD**, “*earnest heed!*”

KJV ~ “*Therefore* [that is, because of **GOD’S** final revelation in **HIS SON JESUS** and because of **JESUS’** superiority to Angels] we ought to give the more *earnest heed* [don’t just *hear* it, *listen* to it but write it] lest at any time we should let *them* slip.” (Hebrews 2: 1)

Question? What have you written this morning? For surely, the paths of life are slippery!

Question? Have you been *glancing* or *gazing* into **The Mirror of GOD’S WORD**?

Question? Have you ever “seen yourself” in **The Bible**? What did you do about it?

“I heard **The Voice of JESUS** say, “Come unto to **ME**, and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon **MY** Breast.
I came to **JESUS** as I was, weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in **HIM** a resting-place, and **HE** has made me glad.

I heard **The Voice of JESUS** say, **I AM** this dark worlds **LIGHT**;
Look unto **ME**, thy morn shall rise, and all thy days be Bright.
I looked to **JESUS**, and I found in **HIM** my **STAR**, my **SUN**;
And in that **LIGHT** of life I’ll walk, till trav’ling days are done.”