

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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Mirror, Mirror

by Warren Berkley

The mirrors used in Roman antiquity were slightly convex disks of metal, either bronze, tin or silver, that reflected light when the surfaces were highly polished.

There are about four references to mirrors in the Bible (Job 37:18; 1 Cor. 13:12; 2 Cor. 3:18 and Jas. 1:23). In ancient times, mirrors might be used for a variety of secondary purposes (some suggest in military battle, mirrors may have been used to send signals or confuse the enemy). While the idea is intriguing, there is no solid evidence that the Roman chariots were equipped with rear view mirrors!

The primary use, however, was the popular current use: to see what you look like. To see if your face is dirty; to apply make-up or jewelry; to arrange hair.

Here's something self-evident: To use

a mirror and find something that needs attention, then do nothing about it, is futile. The point is totally uncomplicated, and finds ready application: To use the Word of God and find something that needs attention in your life, but do nothing is futile.

Why read the Bible, if you're not going to do what it says? Why come to a Bible class and learn truth for a good life, then make no effort to apply it in your life? Why listen to Bible preaching, then ignore that teaching in the way you live?

Or as James said – “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

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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," (Jas. 1:23-25).

Fountain of Life

By George Slover

"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:37,38)

Both Joel (Joel 3:18) and Zechariah (Zechariah 14:8), spoke of a day when pure, fresh, living waters would flow out of Jerusalem, provided by Jesus Christ, the Savior. It was customary on the last day of the feast (vs. 2,37), for the priest to draw water from the pool of Siloam and bring it back with joy to the temple. It may have been this custom, that Jesus used as an object lesson to make this joyful promise.

There is a deep thirst in every human soul. The many wells of the world - wealth, wisdom, and pleasure - are powerless to fully quench this human longing. Jesus boldly claims to be the one who fulfills that need.

There is in man a thirst for righteousness, reconciliation, peace, and hope. Christ alone possesses the ability to answer these human needs. He is the Rock in the wilderness out of which the water of salvation flows. (1 Corinthians 10:4) He invites all to come and to receive it.

Another look at the passage reveals that the promise of Jesus goes beyond the immediate blessing to the believer. Those who receive this life-giving water, also become life-giving fountains. The influence of Christ in their lives transforms them into a refreshing source of moral purity and goodness. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." (Titus 2:14)

Finally, the reference to the giving of the Holy Spirit may be connected to the events recorded in Acts 2. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, there was a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Accompanying the outpouring of the Spirit was the glorious message of redemption. (Acts 2:21,36-38) Since then, multitudes have come to the Water of life, and have received the assurance that they are the sons of God.

Jesus offers this spiritual drink freely to those who believe, who come, and who drink. Have you come to this marvelous fountain of life?

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class January 26.

Services - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays through the month of March. We will reevaluate in March. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry & Nancy Richardson
Ron & Sue Stanberry
Karen Hallmark
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Tyler Hairston
Anna Urquhart
Don & Alene Simmons
The Raif family

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

