

## What mirror are you using?

### Intro:

#### → There are many mirrors in the world!

- nature itself can be a mirror - pict.
  - **Job 37:18** (Elihu to Job) “Can you, with Him, spread out the **skies**, strong as a molten **mirror**?”

#### → This lesson:

- **Title:** What mirror are you using?
- **Purpose / Convince:**
  - convince and encourage you to use the only mirror we can trust to look at our spiritual being
  - convince and encourage you to use this mirror properly

## #1 There are different types of mirrors.

### → Some mirrors make bad things look good.

- reflection looks much better than it really is
  - e.g., some people spend \$ to buy mirrors that make them look better than they are — expensive lighting and tinting — illus. soft light in the bathroom
- **devil:** father of all lies — makes sin look good
  - **Jn. 8:44b** (Jesus regarding devil) he is a **liar**, the **father of lies**
  - **1 Jn. 2:16** (devil makes sin appear fun) the **lust** of the flesh, the **lust** of the eyes, the boastful **pride** of life, is not from the Father but from the **world** (devil)
  - **1 Jn. 3:10** when we believe and practice the devil's lies, we become his children
  - **illus.:**
    - Satan makes drinking and partying look good, fun
      - want to get good looking girls, drink xyz beer
      - doesn't want you to think about deaths by drunk drivers, broken homes, ruined lives
    - Satan make gambling look fun
      - want to be rich and enjoy life, buy xyz lottery ticket
      - doesn't want you to know about children who go hungry because parents gambled away food \$

### → Some mirrors make big things look little — farther away.

- some mirrors make things look smaller (farther away) — "objects in mirror are closer than they appear"
  - can't explicitly trust rear view mirror, makes danger look further away than it really is
- **devil (father of lies):**
  - **makes sin look better than it is — not a big deal**
    - **1 Tim. 4:1** deceitful spirits, doctrines of demons
      - e.g., **magicians** use mirrors to deceive people
    - **doctrines of demons:** there are big sins and little sins — little sins okay
      - e.g., white lies
  - **makes obeying God not a big deal - okay to disobey**
    - **Rom. 6:1** (sin more so saved more) continue in sin so that grace may increase?
      - e.g., it's okay to sin, God forgives you — grace will cover it
    - **Rev. 3:15-16** Laodicea, deceived, lukewarm is okay, Jesus spit out of mouth
      - e.g., **apatetic**, convinced doing a lot when doing little, content to do little or nothing in service to God — happy to be lukewarm
      - **illus.:** **Beth's cornbread, spit out**
    - **doctrines of demons:** saved by grace so don't have to obey (else saved by law), once saved always saved, continual cleansing
  - **makes judgment and punishment not a big deal — farther away than it is, not significant**
    - **Matt. 24:45-51** Jesus: parable of the good and evil slave
      - faithful and sensible slave: found obeying master (Jesus)
      - evil slave: master (Jesus) not coming for long time, comes when not expect — cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
    - **doctrines of demons:** you have many years to get right with God
      - no hell, no eternal punishment
        - eat, drink, and be marry - for tomorrow we die
      - we will pray you out of hell, we will be baptized for you after you die
      - God loves you, we would never punish you in hell

→ **Some mirrors distort the truth — looks like truth, but it's a lie.**

- **2 Pet. 3:16b** (some twist Scriptures) the untaught and unstable **distort** (twist), **Scriptures**, to their **own destruction**
  - **doctrines of demons:** the Bible doesn't mean what it says
    - e.g., don't have to be baptized to be saved (rf. Mk. 16:16)
- **1 Jn. 2:26** (some people try to deceive us) those who are trying to deceive you
  - **doctrines of demons:** their purpose is to deceive us
- **1 Cor. 3:18** (deceive self) let no man deceive himself
  - **doctrines of demons:** man is right and the Bible is wrong
    - e.g., homosexuality, evolution, salvation

→ **Some mirrors tell the truth — are trustworthy.**

- **when you look at a mirror that reflects the truth:**
  - see yourself as you really are
  - not deceived by the mirror
  - truth is not distorted

→ **Summary / Conclusion:**

- If we want to know the truth, we must be careful to use a mirror that reflects the truth.
- **There is only one mirror that reflects religious truth!**

## #2 God's word is the only "religious" mirror that reflects truth.

### → **Ja. 1:21-25** Analogy of a mirror — God's word.

- **vs. 23-24** if anyone is a hearer and not a doer — look at mirror, see truth, immediately forgets
  - **illus.:** look at mirror, see hair is a mess, turn away and forget what saw — think hair is perfect although just saw that it was a mess
  - **illus.:** look at mirror, see that clothes don't match. . . .

### → **Ja. 1:21** must receive (as authority) the word

- **mirror analogy / word:** we must believe the mirror, put it in our hearts, change - fix hair, put on matching clothes
  - **Jn. 12:48** must receive Jesus' word, judged
  - **1 Th. 2:13** (Paul, Th, received word) performs its work in you who believe

### → **Ja. 1:21** we must be humble to receive the word

- **mirror analogy / word:** we must be humble to take the truth to heart, act upon what we see about our selves in the mirror (word) - humble to admit hair needs fixed, clothes needed changed, not perfect as is
  - **Ja. 4:6b** (grace to humble) God opposed to the proud, gives grace to the humble

### → **Ja. 1:25** look intently at the law of liberty (word)

- **mirror analogy:** we have to carefully look at the mirror, God's word — pay strict attention to it, take it serious, take action, constantly refer back to it for follow-up - study what the mirror says, keep working on hair till learn to fix it right

### → **Ja. 1:25** shouldn't forget what the mirror says (word)

- **mirror analogy / word:** can't see the truth today and forget it tomorrow; can't obey today and disobey tomorrow - must fix hair everyday, not just one day
- **Matt. 13:18-23** show how all but the good soil were forgetful hearers - forgot what they saw in the mirror

### → **Ja. 1:25** if not forgetful hearer, blessed in what you do

- **mirror analogy / word:** if look in the mirror, remember, make changes, will be blessed (vs. 21, salvation) - look at mirror and fix hair everyday, be better off than if never fixed hair: job, attracting a mate, etc.
  - **1 Cor. 15:1-2** saved, blessed, **if** hold fast the word

### → **Ja. 1:22** prove yourselves to be doers

- **mirror analogy / word:** prove to yourselves, that you look intently into the mirror, believe it, don't forget, act upon what you see
  - **Ja. 1:26-27** bridle tongue, visit

## Conclusion:

### → Summary:

- There are different types of mirrors in the world. — [slides change independently](#)
  - Some make bad things look good.
  - Some make big things look little.
  - Some distort the truth.
  - Some tell the truth.
- God's word is the only mirror that reflects religious truth.
  - What mirror are you using?
  - What are you doing with God's mirror (word)?

### → Inv.

- Look into the Biblical mirror to see yourself for who you really are. . . .
- faithful Christian. . . .
- not a Christian, or unfaithful. . . .

#### Audio sermon notes:

- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 3/19/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.