

Sermon Title: The Mirror of Scripture

Sermon Text: James 1:19-27

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the practice of evaluation by the Word of God.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 ways to practice self-evaluation by the Word of God.

I. The mirror image of receiving the Word. Vv.19-21

II. The mirror image of responding to the Word. Vv.22-25

III. The mirror image of reflecting the Word. Vv.26-27

I. The mirror image of receiving the Word. Vv.19-21

A. The Christian should look to the Scriptures to answer the questions of life. V.19a

B. The Christian practices three steps in receiving the Word of God. V.19b

1. Be quick to listen.

2. Be slow to speak.

3. Be slow to anger.

Hebrews 5:11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

C. The Christian realizes the anger of man hinders the receiving of the Word of God. V.20

D. The Christian rids himself of shabby living and moral filth as they receive the Word of God. V.21a

E. The Christian life is preserved and sanctified as they receive and practice the Word of God. V.21b

The Word is to be ingrown or inborn, rooted in the fertile soil of the soul. It is that Word of God which can save and sanctify.

II. The mirror image of responding to the Word. Vv.22-25

A. The Christian must respond to God's Word with active obedience. V.22

The growing numbers of sermon-sippers who flit from one doctrinal dessert to another like helpless hummingbirds are deceiving themselves.

“Deceiving” is from a verb used only in the New Testament here and in Colossians 2:4. Paralogizomai means “to cheat or deceive by false reasoning.”

“The deception comes from thinking they have done all that is necessary when actually listening to the Word is only the beginning.

[The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament, John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck “The Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty New Testament,” p.823]

B. The Christian must respond by addressing what is revealed by the Word of God. The Greek word for “man” is (andre) the male man. V.23

C. The Christian must respond to God's Word in order to grow spiritually. V.24

1. The phrase, "Looks intently into" means to stoop down in order to have a close look at something. V.25
2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

D. The Christian who responds to the Word of God experiences freedom.

1. Genuine freedom from sin.
Romans 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
2. Genuine freedom from self-righteous works.
John 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. **35** "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. **36** "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

God's powerful, effectual, and active Word can keep us faithful when we face a faith building, trial, trouble, or tribulation. It also keeps us from sin when we encounter a faith-threatening temptation. The key is in how the believer responds to the Word of God. We need to know how to respond properly, so that, the Holy Spirit can use the Word to do His sanctifying work in our lives.

III. The mirror image of reflecting the Word. Vv.26-27

The true believer after receiving and responding to the Word of God now takes a new approach to life and others. The true believer commits himself to a continual reflection of the characteristics of God's Word.

- A. The conversation of the believer is impacted. V.26
- B. The compassion of the believer is impacted. V.27a
- C. The conduct of the believer is impacted. V.27b