

The Looking Glass

Mirrors come in all shapes and sizes, but they all have one purpose and, that is to reflect something or someone. Some mirrors are created in such a way that they distort any image put in front of it. Some amusement parks and other places have these just for fun; when people walk in front of them, their image has a distortion.

The term "looking glass" is actually a mirror made of glass that has on the back of it a reflective substance, such as quicksilver. One source tells us that, "*Looking glass* was considered the 'proper' word to use when referring to what we now would all call a mirror. The word *mirror* was considered vulgar and middle-class by the upper classes. Some upper class people will still say *looking glass* instead of *mirror*."

A mirror may also be made of highly polished metal or almost anything that will create a reflection. Probably all of us have at one time or another looked at ourselves in a mirror because it is only natural that we want to see what we look like. Is our hair the way we want it to be? A look in the mirror will answer that question. Do our clothes fit right? A look in the mirror will answer that question also. There are so many reasons for using a mirror! Sometimes when we look in a mirror, we don't like what we see. A mirror only reflects what is in front of it; it cannot lie; it can only tell the truth.

The Bible is God's Word that is forever settled in Heaven. {Psalm 119:89} In one sense, it is like a looking glass because it reflects the **TRUE** image of man {generically speaking all of mankind}. As we read the Bible, we see that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God {Romans 3:23} because of Adam's sin in the garden of Eden. {Romans 5:12} As a human race, the looking glass of God's Word shows what kind of people we really are. What we see is not pretty, but it tells the truth. {Romans 1:20-32; 3:10-18} These Bible verses show how sinful the human race is. Other verses of Scripture reveal God's punishment for sin. The wages for sin is death {Romans 6:23}. Humanity will reap what it sows {Galatians 6:7-8}. Man's own ideas of what is right only leads to destruction and death {Proverbs 14:12}. The ultimate and final destination of sinful humanity is the place God's Word calls the lake of fire and brimstone {Revelation, chapters 20-21}. That looking glass that we see ourselves in when we first get up in the morning does not reveal a sight that we would like to behold. Unfortunately, the looking glass can only reflect back the image before it; it has no power to change it no matter what pose is held or from what distance.

Unlike the looking glass that we peer into but without power to change us, God's Word as a spiritual looking glass **does** have that power to change us. God's Word is alive because Jesus Christ is alive because He **THE** Word of God {John 1:1}. God's Word can and does make a change in the hearts of people. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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}

A looking glass cannot tell us how to change, but God's Word does tell us. The Bible tells us that what we really deserve is God's judgment and death but there is still hope for us, and that hope is in the person of Jesus Christ We are told "For the wages of sin is death; **but** {Emphasis added} the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." {Romans 6:23}. This is possible because of God's great love for us as expressed in John 3:16. Also, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8} "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." {I Peter 1:23} As sinners, we have a sin nature {received from Adam - Romans 5:12} that enslaves us but the blood of Jesus Christ has redeemed us from that bondage. {I Peter 1:18-19; I John 1:7, 9} "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" {Colossians 1:13-14}. When we repent of our sin {this means to take God's side against our sin; to admit we are sinners and turn from that to the Lord Jesus Christ}, God forgives us by His grace. {Titus 4:3-7} This is something that we cannot work to earn; it is **ALL** by His grace {Ephesians 2:5, 8-9}

Those of us who have repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour are not perfect, and we know that. We are just sinners who have received salvation by His wonderful grace. Furthermore, He has given us assurance of eternal life in Jesus Christ. {I John 5:11-13} "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." {II Corinthians 3:18}

A looking glass may become dirty, cracked, or even broken but its pieces will always reflect an accurate image. The looking glass of God, His eternal Word, never becomes dirty, cracked, or even broken and it will always reflect the truth

because God is truth. My friend, have YOU repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? If you have not, then I would encourage you to do so before it comes eternally too late.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2018

All Scripture references are KJV