

Light and Life

Something in My Teeth

“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 a man he was. But he who looks into 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)

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves” (II Cor. 13:5). Scripture can be used like a mirror to this effect. The general use for a mirror is to make sure you don’t have anything in your teeth and that nothing about your appearance needs fixing. When you properly use the mirror of God’s word, you can “present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

Unfortunately, mirrors can be misused. We may, as James writes about, look into the mirror absentmindedly. We gaze at our reflection for a moment, ignoring that our shirt is only half tucked in and our collar is half popped. We stare straight at the sin in our lives and fail to recognize them as problems, walking away from the mirror without making a change.

We may look into the mirror of God’s word in vanity – thinking about how good we look. In this case we would have a self-righteous attitude that does not recognize the need to eliminate sin in our lives and draw closer to God.

Or, we may look into the mirror of God’s word in search of someone else’s face. We are not interested in making applications in our own lives – but we love to point out the failures and shortcomings of others!

Let’s make sure we are using the mirror properly – getting that ‘something’ out of our teeth!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Why It Is Hard to be Thankful

...It’s one thing to speak of thanksgiving as an idea – for example, when we read in Ephesians 5 to always give thanks for all things... It’s another thing to practice thanksgiving when we are wading through the trenches of life... But why is it sometimes so hard to be thankful?

Sometimes the problem is that other people have so much more than I do... Some people who care nothing about serving God seem to have so much more... they are living these picture-perfect lives and I am struggling to keep my old beater going... So how can we be thankful always for all things?

First, we have to learn to **look back**. Part of the problem is that we are always looking forward up the food chain... The problem is there will always be someone who has more. If we look back, we will notice that there are always a lot more people than there are ahead of us... 71% of the people in the world are rated as “low income” or “poor”. 88% of Americans are rated as “upper middle” or “high income”... One of the reasons God reminds us to help the poor is because it reminds me where I am and how good I’ve got it...

Jump to Ecclesiastes 8:11-13... life will not end well for wicked people... at some time they are going to have to deal with God... Solomon had to learn to **look long** – to take in the whole picture. All the advantages we think the wealthy around us have are no advantage at all... they are to be pitied for what they do not have, not envied for what they have... If you have a relationship with Jesus, you possess the only thing that really matters...

Finally, in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 Paul writes about his thorn in the flesh... he asked God to remove it... God’s answer was ‘no’... So, Paul came to see something... thorns kept him humble; they made him more dependent on God... so we must learn to **look deep**...

- David Banning (sermon excerpts)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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YOUTH LECTURES with David Banning

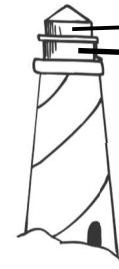
This Friday 7:00pm
This Saturday 10:30am
and 1:30pm with
evening devotional (Hale's)
& Sunday a.m. (Aug 6)

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, J Marshall, S Shell, T Deen, R Starr, S Montgomery

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – Tonight is our monthly Q&A lesson. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed questions to this effort!

SENTENCE SERMON – One man alters the truth to fit his opinions, while another alters his opinions to fit the truth.

The Elephant and the Rider

In psychological circles, the latest illustration to describe the tension between our emotions and our intellect is the image of an elephant and its rider. The rider represents the rational side of our being while the elephant represents the emotional side. If either one gains supremacy, little gets done. But when both work in tandem, progress happens.

The apostle Paul described one aspect of this tension in his letter to the Romans: “In my inner self I delight in God’s law, but I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin...” (7:22-23). Clearly, when

the elephant is left to its own inclinations, bad things happen.

To tame the elephant, riders must use their intellect, as Paul went on to write, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Ro 12:2). This is not mere human reasoning, but a mind that has been educated by the “perfect will of God” (vs 2b).

Yet the rider needs the elephant to accomplish his purposes. We **need** emotional, compassionate, tender, and loving hearts to balance the cold, analytical ‘check box’ mentality of the rider. So may God help us to find balance to do **both!** - *WKing*