

The Mirror Versus the Window

by R. J. Evans

The common philosophy of our culture today fosters the “me, my, and mine” attitude. From early childhood onward, so much emphasis is being placed on “have your own way,” “do your own thing,” and “look out for number one.”

Some see life through a window while others view life in a mirror. Those who view life in a mirror only see themselves. They are only concerned with self, because they can't see the needs of others around them. Those who view life through a window, see others first, with a faded reflection of self. They are truly concerned about all those about them. They do everything possible to seek the good of others. This is how parents should be teaching their children—look through the window, not just focus on yourself in the mirror!

There is another mirror, however, that we need to constantly look into in order to see ourselves as God sees us—the mirror of God's Word (**Jas. 1:22-26**). As Christians we must always place Christ and the advancement of His Cause first in our lives. “But seek first the kingdom of

God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (**Matt. 6:33**). Further we are told to “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (**Phil. 2:3-4**).

Thus, living the Christian life is a life of ministry and service to others. Jesus taught this throughout the whole time he lived among men. At the close of His life here on earth, He demonstrated what He had been teaching by performing the lowly act of washing His disciples' feet (**Jn. 13**).

Give some serious thought to the teachings of Christ before you begin to think you have to have “your way” in everything. Selfishness has no place in the service of the Lord. Stop looking at life in the mirror (of self); view it through the window!



Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Barbara Hasty (Ryan's mom)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's grandfather)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Danylu Burnett (Joanetta's mom)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Donna Jackson (Kristen's aunt)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's uncle and aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Caroline Campbell (Matt's sister)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

August Birthdays

- 1-Trinity Jenkins
- 2-Emma Miller
- 2-Mark Ogles
- 2-Cole Dobbins
- 4-Nate Cicero
- 6-Sandra Chason
- 8-Alli Luther
- 9-Elliot Weldon
- 10-Justin Stringfellow
- 11-Walker Davis
- 12-Jon Coleman
- 12-Bryon Buzan
- 13-Ariel Oldag
- 14-Owen Morris
- 15-Everleigh Crawford
- 16-Sharon Edwards
- 16-Ryleigh Hinson
- 18-Heidi Abell
- 18-Chris Britnell
- 21-Matt Cavender
- 21-Garrett Spohn
- 24-Sophie Hall
- 26-Payton Davis
- 26-Paige Short
- 27-Chip Freeman
- 27-Nathan Diehl
- 28-Larry Rouse
- 29-JenniferLeigh Searcy
- 28-Cole Johnson
- 30-Peri Lane Mullinax

News and Notes

- ☒ - Tonight is singing night!
- ☒ - Lisa Carter, Daniel's mom, remains in palliative care at UAB.
- ☒ - Kristen Diehl's dad, Cletus McGee, was able to come home from the hospital after stomach surgery.
- ☒ - Toni Herd remains in EAMC after her colon surgery and should be moved to rehab floor this week.
- ☒ - There is a meal list on the bulletin board for the Dan Lankford family for the meeting.
- ☒ - Please pray for Amy Godwin's mom, Quita, who is being treated for a blood clot in her lung and will need a surgery later for a benign tumor behind her eye.
- ☒ - Keep the family of Lily Rogers in your prayers in the passing of her uncle, Willie Curran.
- ☒ - Our meeting Aug 25-29 with Dan Langford starts next Sunday!
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mother: Sarah Bethea.
- ☒ - Please consider parking on the grass to allow our visitors a place to park!
- ☒ - New students! See Paula Davis after morning service to get your picture made!

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Life Without a Mirror

By Lenny Chapman



Thoughts to Ponder

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.

(James 1:23-24)

Elders
Stacy Norman
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

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Evangelist and Editor

How many times a day do you take a peek in a mirror? What would life be like if suddenly there were no more mirrors? Can you imagine getting ready in the morning without the time spent in front of the mirror shaving, getting our hair just right, and for that last look at the total outfit before we step out for the day? What about going to the store to buy new clothes? Could you deal with a system of trying on an outfit and then coming out of the dressing room asking people “How do I look in this one?” Recently I watched a group spend a considerable amount of time at a sunglasses display trying on glasses, looking in the mirror, trying on another pair, and looking in the mirror over and over. Imagine walking up to the display of sunglasses and pulling one off saying “These look good, I’ll buy them!” If it doesn’t matter how

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they look and feel why do we spend so much time picking “just the right” pair out?

Well, of course life would surely be different without mirrors. It is quite amazing when you think about it, how a piece of reflective glass can expand our vision so dramatically. Mirrors help us see behind and beside us while we drive our automobiles. When placed properly, mirrors can help one

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

to see around a corner, or above us, or below us. However, one of the most important functions of a mirror and perhaps the most widely used purpose is to see the reflection of one's self! The time we spend in front of the mirror helps us to present ourselves in the best possible way to others, and also helps boost our own self-confidence. When looking in a mirror we can see in advance how we look (outwardly) to others! Wouldn't it be great if there were a way to see our reflection inwardly?

The Bible is our "looking-glass" to see our reflection as it pertains to the inward man. The apostle Paul told Timothy that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"

(2 Tim. 3:16-17). So it is that the scriptures are to be used as a mirror. The Christian should be able to see his own reflection as he reads the Word of God.

Certainly for a newborn Christian the reflection may not be as clear as it will be for the mature Christian. However, Paul wrote to those in Corinth encouraging them to continue in their study of the scriptures, and that by applying the lessons learned, they will soon grow to know the full meaning of the Christian lifestyle "For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known"

(1 Cor. 13:12). Just as we make that second or third pass in front of the mirror each morning for "fine-tuning," we also should be "fine-tuning" our spiritual condition. As a test, would you consider changing your morning preparations for one week? In this test, start out on Monday looking in the mirror as many times as you like until noon. Then refrain from looking in any mirror until Thursday morning. What would the results be from this test?

Sadly, there are many who do this very thing with their spiritual condition. They will set down their Bible for days at a time without ever even missing it. Why would one feel that the inner man is not affected by this type of action? Of course we are affected, and in many cases, much more deeply than one would want to consider. The scriptures tell us that, "bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things," **(1 Tim. 4:8)**, it is the inner man that we should place the most effort for improvement. "Now the Lord is the Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit **(2 Cor. 3:17-18)**. We can see that it is by application of God's word that we become the image of godliness! So, let us realize the importance of our inner man and check our spiritual condition as often as we check our outward condition by looking into Holy Scriptures, "the mirror" that brings forth everlasting life!



What Will Your Children Remember?

By Lowell Blasingame

The Psalmist said that a man's children are "a heritage of the Lord," **(Psa. 127:4)**. Most admit that there is something badly wrong with parents who do not love and value their children as such.

Parental love motivates us to be concerned about our children's welfare and seek what is best for them. We try to train them to eat properly so they will develop strong healthy bodies. We warn and advise against dangers of which they are not aware. We make decisions for them until we think they are mature enough to make their own.

Unfortunately, parents often fail their children in the most important area of all in life - the need for seeking first the kingdom of God **(Mt. 6:33)**. I once visited with a father and tried to impress upon him this need. His response to me was that when he was a child his mother made him get up on Sundays and go to the little church in the community where they lived and he made up his mind then that when he became a man of his own, that he wouldn't go until he wanted to go. This man later in life came to recognize that need and obeyed the gospel but his son, who was in his formative years when I talked with his father and needed a father's example, didn't get such then and today is not a Christian. Fathers are admonished to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," **(Eph. 6:4)**. Timothy's unfeigned faith is attributed to the example of a godly mother and grandmother **(2 Tim. 1:5)**. On the other hand, of Ahaziah it is said, "For his mother was his counselor to do wickedly" **(2 Chron. 22:3)**.

Jeremiah made an observation about his generation that its sin was written with a pen of iron and the point of a diamond upon the table of their heart and horns of their altars, "Whilst their children remember their altars and their grooves by the green trees upon the high hills," **(Jer. 17:1-2)**. Judah's example was imprinting the future of their children - it was being decided by what they remembered from the example of their forefathers.

Statistics recently released from a study made reveal the tremendous impact of parental example in the lives of their children. It was learned that children growing up in homes whose parents actively participated in the work of the local congregation had a tendency to be more active in the work of the congregation when they became

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adults than those whose parents manifest little or no interest in the work of the church. In fact, very rarely did parents who spasmodically attended and took no part in the work of the congregation have children to become active members when they became adults. They exhibited the same undependable traits that their parents did.

I can conceive of nothing more heart rending than for one seeing his child condemned in the day of judgment and know that he had influenced his child in the wrong way. Jeremiah said that Judah's children would remember her altars and groves. His point was that their idolatry would influence their children to serve idols and incur the wrath of Jehovah and that they were partially responsible for it by their examples.

What will your children remember? Will it be that you never obeyed the gospel, or that you turned back and ceased to serve the Lord, or that you constantly complained and found fault with your brethren in the Lord? Will they remember that you could sit on a backless bleacher for a two to three hour ballgame or in a boat fishing, but that an hour on a bench in the church building had your back killing you? Will they remember that you skipped services when kinfolks came, or for a golf tournament, or for the opening day of deer season? Will they remember that you bought the best with which to golf, hunt or fish, that the price of gasoline, motels and food never kept you from Mountain View, Pigeon Forge or the beach, but you never could drive fifty or a hundred miles to worship with brethren and encourage them in a gospel meeting? Will they remember that you were always early for the movie, first at the picnic and in the stands before the first pitch of the ball game, but that you never seemed to be able to get to worship services before the singing had started?

Remembering you will be a major factor in imprinting the lives of your children and grandchildren, is this what you want?

"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid" **(1 Tim. 5:24-25)**.

