

Have You Looked in the Mirror?

by Theodore Epp

The sermon emphasizes the importance of self-examination through God's Word and acting upon its teachings for true freedom and joy in Christ.

Scripture: Psalm 26:2, Psalm 139:23-24, John 13:17, Romans 6:23, Galatians 6:2, James 1:22-25

Topics: "Freedom in Christ", "Self-Reflection"

Description

Theodore Epp emphasizes the importance of acting upon the Word of God, likening it to looking into a mirror that reflects our true selves. He draws parallels with David's willingness to have God examine his heart, highlighting the need for self-reflection and correction. Epp explains that the 'perfect law of liberty' mentioned in James 1:25 is not a license to sin but a call to live in freedom through Christ's teachings. He reminds us that true happiness comes from doing what we know to be right, as stated in John 13:17.

Transcript

James 1:22-25

Whereas James 1:22-24 view the person who does not act upon the basis of the Word, verse 25 looks at the person who does act on the basis of the Word of God. He is like one who does something about what he sees in the mirror. His positive attitude is beautiful, as was David's when he said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23,24). David was asking God to x-ray his heart. The obvious implication of David's words is that no matter what God discovered, David was willing to correct. On another occasion, David told the Lord, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart" (26:2).

As James spoke of looking into the divine mirror, he referred to it as "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). The word "law" generally connotes meanings of bondage, such as in the Old Testament Law. However, this is not the case when referring to the "law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 refers to this law: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." The law of Christ is the "perfect law of liberty" spoken of in James 1:25.

We must never forget that freedom to sin is not liberty because "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). This is true of sin committed during any age, or dispensation. James was not referring to a license to sin when he spoke of the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25).

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

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