

## ROSE COLORED GLASSES

In the song “Rose Colored Glasses,” there is a line that says, “These Rose Colored Glasses show only the beauty but hide all the truth.” Pride often causes us to not want to see the truth because the truth condemns us. Let’s take a closer look at how this false perception can affect our lives spiritually.

Are we looking at ourselves the way we really are? James 1:23-24 says, *“For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass (or mirror). For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”* How easy is it to look in our “spiritual mirror,” realize our true condition, and then walk away and forget? In Numbers 13, Moses sent out twelve men, one from each tribe, to check out the promised land. Ten gave a negative report, as seen in Numbers 13:32-33:

*And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

However, two gave a positive report, as seen in Numbers 13:30: *“And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”* How could they all see the same land and report such different findings?

Have you done a true self-examination? In Romans 3:23, Paul says, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”* In 1 Corinthians 11:31-32, Paul tells us to examine ourselves and make the necessary corrections: *“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”*

What difference does it make if others see me differently than how I really am? As a Christian, we are to be good examples. As seen in 1 Timothy 4:12, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* Also, we will have to answer for leading others astray. Jesus said in Matthew 18:6, *“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which*

*believe in me, it was better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

Finally, our example can lead others to Christ, even our spouse. This is stated in 1 Peter 3:1: *“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.”*

Does it matter that God sees me differently than how I see myself? We may fool many people in this life; however, God’s word will be the source of our judgment. Note Jesus’ words in John 12:48: *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

All secrets will be revealed. See Romans 2:16: *“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”* There will be no atheists in hell. Reference Romans 14:11-12: *“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

Why can’t God just save everyone? God wants everyone to be saved, as seen in Titus 2:11-14:

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

However, most will be lost. Jesus tells us this in Matthew 7:13-14:

*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

God’s perfect judgment says man must die due to sin. God’s perfect love says to forgive. God’s perfect mercy allowed Jesus Christ die to on the cross and take our place so those that will take advantage of that sacrifice could be saved.

In Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the first gospel sermon. There were those there that took part in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. After examining themselves, they had this reaction in Acts 2:37:

*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

Peter answered in Acts 2:38:

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Next Acts 2:41 says, “*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*” And when they had done what God required of them, Acts 2:47 says, “*... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*” This is true for us today, some two thousand years later, when we do what God requires of us in His word.

Now, we must decide if we are going overcome our pride by taking off our Rose Colored Glasses and see how our life measures up against the truth. Each of us must ask, “Have I done a true self-examination of my life compared to God’s word?” Note the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:31-32: “*For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*” Let us all be obedient to God’s word while we have time and opportunity!

MARK CARPENTER  
(Woodland, AL)

## **APOLOGIA**

QUESTION: At what age is one accountable for ones' sins?

ANSWER: First of all let’s define the word “accountable.” From “AudioEnglish.net” we note that “accountable” means “liable to account for one's actions”. There are a number of verses in the pages of inspiration that indicate that every penitent believer is accountable for their actions. Let us now turn our attention to a few.

- *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is*

*in heaven. (Matt. 7:21)*

- *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. (Matt. 12:36)*
- *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (Rom. 14:12)*
- *So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. (Jas. 2:12)*
- *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (Rev. 20:12)*

The honest student of the Holy Bible can readily conclude from the above verses that everyone will be accountable before God on the day of judgment.

What, then, is God's saving power concerning salvation? In the letter to the Romans we find in chapter 1 and verse 16 the answer: "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*"

What is the gospel of Christ? The inspired Mark tells us plainly: "*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" (Mark 16:15,16).

To be in a savable condition before God, we must obey the gospel by believing in the saving power of the blood of Christ and touching His blood with our faith in the watery grave of baptism.

This leads us to the question: who can be baptized and please God in order to gain access to the blood of Christ? Let us answer this query with a verse of scripture from the mind of God and not man's opinion. The book of Acts vividly expounds:

*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch;*

*and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38)*

Those who have faith in God and the blood of Christ can be baptized for the remission of their sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

When does one have faith and conviction enough to be baptized? Put simply, when one is mentally capable of being convicted of God's truth of the Gospel. A two month old baby barely knows it is alive and some may not. Small infants operate from involuntary responses concerning feeding. They are not capable of understanding right and wrong concerning God's will as found in the Bible. They are not "penitent" and have not sinned. A sin is NOT a spot on one's soul at birth. A sin is when one steps across a fixed boundary of God's word. Thus, obeying the gospel is not a matter of how many birthdays one has had. It is a matter of belief when one is mentally capable of it.

TIM ELDRIDGE  
(Woodland, AL)

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
March 9-11	Valley Valley, AL	Kevin Mills (Newnan, GA)
March 16-18	Marrowbone Marrowbone, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
March 23-25	Fayetteville Road Fairburn, GA	Carley Conner (Cookeville, TN)
March 23-25	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Hunter Bulger (Fort Deposit, AL)
March 25-28	Ashlock Burkesville, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
March 25-28	Gilstrap Morgantown, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. In First Samuel, when Samuel was getting old, what did the people ask him to do?
2. What was in the ark when it was placed in the temple according to Second Chronicles?
3. According to the book of Amos, after Amos pleaded with God, God relented from serving what two potential disasters upon Israel?
4. At the wedding in Cana, what request did Jesus' mother give to the servants regarding Him?
5. In 2 Corinthians Paul says that he was given a thorn in the flesh. What was it?

### PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed,  
and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;  
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled,  
though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.  
There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God,  
the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.  
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved:  
God shall help her, and that right early.  
The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved:  
he uttered his voice, the earth melted.  
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.  
Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
what desolations he hath made in the earth.  
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;  
he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder;  
he burneth the chariot in the fire.  
Be still, and know that I am God:  
I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.  
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.