

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

April 2026

No. 484

REFLECTION

Sometimes, we aren't particularly pleased with what we see in a mirror. Perhaps the image reflecting back isn't the image we consider ideal for us. We care, often too much, about the reflection in the mirror. Why do we care so much? Likely, it's because that reflection is what the rest of the world sees. Sometimes, we don't want the world to see the same thing we're seeing staring back at us in the mirror. So, we make sure we spend time looking in the mirror to assess our physical reflection. How often do we assess our spiritual image with sim-

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ilar interest? That is, how much effort do we put into spiritual reflection?

The physical reflection in the mirror didn't attain that appearance overnight. We know weight, wrinkles, hair (or lack of), and the cosmetic imperfections at which we stare took time to reach their current state. Although there are some "tricks" we can play to touch up our appearance, the twenty extra pounds that did not form in 15 minutes certainly won't go away in 15 minutes. That said, we likely saw it coming. We probably noticed when it was five extra pounds. Then, it became ten, fifteen, and now twenty extra pounds. The same can be true of our spiritual state. Problems grow, and they typically don't form overnight. However, without reflection on our spiritual state, we may not be catching such problems early enough.

Reflection, spiritually, forms the bridge between hearing the Word and actually living it. For example, it is easiest to be a Christian on Sunday morning, but do we maintain that ease in the middle of a Tuesday? It's easy to feel devout for approximately an hour when we're surrounded by people with the same beliefs and values as we. What happens to the lessons we hear on Sunday? Unless we assess how our life, our reflection, aligns with what we hear, these lessons quickly evaporate and we do nothing with them. True growth happens in the quiet study of the Word, where true study involves reflection. Studying God's Word isn't just reading, nor is reflecting just thinking. When we study God's Word, do we weigh our lives, thoughts, and desires against what we see in the Scripture?

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

We study the mirror to present ourselves to the world in the most flattering way we can. We must similarly spiritually reflect in our work to present ourselves to God. We don't discuss meditation frequently, but it's essentially reflecting on our spiritual state and alignment with God. David speaks of such dedicated time to reflect in Psalms 1. Here, David notes that reflection serves as a daily anchor in righteousness.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (Psa. 1:1-2)

Here is where we need to differentiate prayer and reflection. I imagine many of us pray daily. I hazard a guess that fewer of us reflect daily (and with the same fervor that we assess our physical reflection daily). Reflection is an intentional assessment of our thoughts and actions in response to a variety of situations, including temptation. While we pray for strength and forgiveness, we reflect on how we responded to temptation or other specific events throughout the day. It allows, or challenges us, to compare our actual actions to the Christian standard: Christ. It forces us to look in a spiritual mirror.

Reflection, in providing a daily anchor for our spiritual journey, allows us to learn from experience and turn failure into a lesson. The wise man, Solomon, noted that we have to learn from what we see in the spiritual mirror: *"The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit."* (Pro. 14:8). We reflect more often than we realize, but it's often in other contexts. In the earlier cited text of Paul's letter to Timothy (2 Tim. 2:15), Paul mentioned being a worker. The qualities of a "good worker" and a "good Christian" often overlap as shown throughout the scripture. For instance, in Paul's

letter to the Colossians, Paul encourages us to be hard workers in all situations: “*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*” (Col. 3:23). Hopefully, when employers hire a Christian, they know they’re getting a hard worker. Not only would good employees work hard and see a job through to completion, but they also strive for improvement and mastery in their craft. In our earthly occupations, we often assess both our successes and failures. We want to take the lessons learned and avoid future mistakes.

As is frequently the case with us, we find ourselves very capable of applying this to many aspects of our lives, yet failing to put the same effort forth spiritually. As of this writing, the winter Olympics have recently concluded. It’s amazing to learn of the effort and dedication that the Olympians spend over countless hours over years to hone their specific skills. Such effort includes a substantial amount of review. Their every move is filmed and monitored to be dissected over and over to gain every possible improvement, no matter how small. To these Olympians and their coaches, the hours reviewing which allows them to improve by milliseconds mean the difference between a silver and gold medal. As a craftsman inspects the job they’ve done and an athlete reviews performance film, so should a Christian review their work. We must reflect on our day to prepare for the next: “*Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.*” (Lam. 3:40).

We should view reflection as a continued process rather than something we do from time-to-time as we remember to do so. Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians tells us we must have a constant connection:

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Th. 5:16-18).

We should daily review our walk and assess if everything we did was Christ-like:

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. (Col 3:17).

Identifying and correcting our shortcomings early will prevent them from becoming patterns, marring the spiritual image in the mirror. From reading his Psalms, David seems as one who spent constant time in reflection. More important than his own assessment, he sought God's examination:

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. (Psa. 139:23-24).

Can we apply the same review to our lives, daily?

In James 1, James compares a person who hears the Word but does nothing with it to someone who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what they look like:

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: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (Jam. 1:23-25)

Most of us don't forget our physical reflections. We look at it so often and care too much to forget. Part of why we remember our physical reflections, is because we're comparing its current state to some ideal: "I wish I was thinner," "I wish I had more hair," "I wish I had higher cheekbones," and so on. Our ideal spiritual reflection should naturally be Jesus. Do we compare our current spiritual state to Jesus with the same intent? The reflection we see is the same the world sees. Does the world see any of Jesus in us?

BEN

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who gave Adam the forbidden fruit to eat?
2. What body of water did Moses and the Israelites cross?
3. Who was the father of the fishermen brothers James and John?
4. What did John the Baptist eat?
5. What happened to anyone whose name was not written in the Book of Life?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. Which animal did the ten spies liken themselves to, when compared to the people of the land of Canaan? GRASS-HOPPERS (Num. 13:33)
2. According to the Book of Proverbs, what is "bound in the heart of a child"? FOOLISHNESS (Pro. 22:15)
3. Who were the first two disciples to be called? SIMON (PETER) AND ANDREW (Matt .4:18-19)
4. Jesus said not to "swear by your head" because you cannot do what?
MAKE ONE HAIR BLACK OR WHITE (Matt 5:36)
5. What did the mighty angel throw into the sea that represented the throwing down of Babylon? A STONE LIKE A GREAT MILLSTONE (Rev. 18:21)

FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 12:00p.m.(CT)

The Venue at Smith Farm

1821 County Road 112 Woodland, AL 36280

Covered dish lunch and singing

“THE WORLD’S BIBLE” Lyrics

Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died,
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His Side

We are the only Bible
The careless world will read,
We are the sinners gospel,
We are the scoffers’ creed;
We are the Lord’s last message
Given in deed and word
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?
What if our hands are busy
With other things than His?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin’s allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things His life would spurn,
How can we hope to help Him
And welcome His return?

By Annie J. Flint
Arr.by J.E. Hamilton



(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-w1E_H9MTJk)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

| DATES | TIME | PLACE | SPEAKER |
|----------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| April 24-26 | 7pm Friday - Saturday, 10:30am Sunday | Oak Grove Eubank, KY | Allan Daniel (Woodland, AL) |

PSALMS 32

- (1) A Psalm of David, Maschil. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- (2) Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.
- (3) When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.
- (4) For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.
- (5) I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.
- (6) For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.
- (7) Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.
- (8) I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.
- (9) Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.
- (10) Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.
- (11) Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.