

The Bride of Christ

The Lord's church has been "espoused" (2 Corinthians 11:2-3) or married to Christ. She is therefore the "bride" of Christ (Revelation 19:6-9; 21:9; 22:17). Baptism is the wedding ceremony, as it were, that joins a forgiven sinner to Christ.

Today, anything goes in a marriage. Marriage is no longer a serious, life-long relationship. Unfortunately, I believe some Christians feel that they can treat their marriage to Christ in a similar way. What kind of bride will Christ present to himself when he comes?

Christ will have only one bride. His bride (church) is undenominational. (Ac.2:47). Are you a member of the one bride (body) of Christ (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 4:4)? If not, you need to be washed with baptism (Ephesians 5:26).

Christ will have only a pure bride. His bride (church) is a "pure virgin" (2 Corinthians 11:2-3). Are you a part of the unspotted bride of Christ? If not, you need to be cleansed from sin (1 Jn.1:7-9).

Christ will have only a loyal bride. His bride (church) is to be loyal, devoted, and committed to Christ as it gives its all to him and no one else (Ephesians 6:24).

Are you ready for the marriage feast of the bride and the Lamb when Jesus returns? Are you the one, pure, and loyal bride of Christ? - *Chris Reeves*

Up-Coming Events

- The next teen Bible study will be Saturday, April 1, at the Yen's house, 5 pm.
- Plan now to attend our up-coming gospel meeting, April 20-23, 2017.
- Plan now to attend our up-coming VBS, June 5-9, 2017.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
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Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholds himself, and goes away, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was. But he that looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so continues, being not a hearer that forgets but a doer that works, this man shall be blessed in his doing.

- James 1:22-25 -

We all use mirrors. There are mirrors everywhere; mirrors in our house, mirrors in our car, mirrors at work, and mirrors in stores and restrooms. You can even get a mirror app for your phone!

Do you know that God's word, the Bible is like a mirror. James says so in James 1:22-25 (see also 1 Corinthians 13:12 and 2 Corinthians 3:18). Let's take a look at three functions of God's mirror.

First, **GOD'S MIRROR SHOWS US WHO WE REALLY ARE.** Like a natural mirror, God's mirror reflects what we really are. It does not lie to us. It is not like the mirror in the fun house at the county fair that gives us a distorted picture of ourselves. God's word tells us only the truth about ourselves.

When different people read God's word they are shown to be who they really are. For example, the atheist is shown to be a fool (Psalm 14:1), the worldly person is shown to be condemned (Galatians 5:19-21), the religious, but disobedient man is shown to be wrong (Matthew 7:21-23), the lukewarm person is shown to be rejected (Revelation 3:16-18), the hypocrite is shown to be worthless (Matthew 6:5-6), etc.

Second, **GOD'S MIRROR SHOWS US WHAT WE SHOULD BE.** Unlike a natural mirror, God's mirror is capable of showing us what we should be. It does not lie to us and it tells us what kind of person we should be.

God's word tells us that we should be faithful Christians. We should act like salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14), we should be perfect (complete) in our behavior (Matthew 5:48), we should be conformed to the image of God's son (Romans 8:29), we should be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:16), etc.

Third, **GOD'S WORD SHOWS US HOW TO GET WHERE WE SHOULD BE.** Unlike a natural mirror, God's mirror is capable of showing us how to get where we should be. God's mirror, the Bible, does not leave us without help. It shows us the way to a better life.

How does God's mirror help? It helps by telling us who to go to — Jesus (John 14:6). It helps by telling us what to do to be saved (Acts 2:37-38). It helps by telling us what lifestyle to stay away from (Galatians 5:19ff; Ephesians 4:17ff; Colossians 3:5ff) and what lifestyle

to have (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5ff). It helps by giving us assurance (1 Corinthians 10:13) and wisdom (James 1:5).

God's mirror, the Bible, is indeed a great object to look into. James tells us that God's mirror is "perfect" (complete) (1:25). There is nothing lacking in God's word that we need to go to heaven. God's mirror is also described as "liberty" (1:25). God's word will liberate us from sin. God's mirror can also "save your souls" (1:21). God's word reflects the most important part of us, not our physical body, but our spiritual soul.

As with any mirror, you have to look into it to get any benefit. The same is true with God's mirror, the Bible. James says you have to "look into" it (1:25; note the NASV reads "looks intently"). You have to really look into it (read it), you have to accept its reflection of you, you have to accept its prescription for you, and you have to make the changes it recommends for you. God's mirror, the Bible, doesn't force itself on you in any way.

Many today are like the wicked Queen of Snow White. They don't want to accept what the mirror says about them. Some simply refuse to look into God's mirror. They simply won't read their Bible.

Friend, what do you see when you look into God's mirror? Let's all take a good look into God's word while we still can and make the necessary changes that will lead us to heaven. - Chris Reeves