

Can We See Who We Really Are?

Brian R. Kenyon

A preacher was recently going through airport security when he saw an unusual sight. At the point where boarding pass holders must empty their pockets and send carry-ons to be checked, a blind man, being guided by his friend or relative, was removing large gold chains and charms from around his neck and placing them in the bin to send through the x-ray machine. Why would a blind man wear all that "bling, bling"? Whatever the reason, the preacher thought, "Wow! All that sparkle, and he can't even see himself."

There is a greater spiritual lesson to this scene. Sometimes, a Christian can act in such ways that others legitimately wonder, "Does he actually realize what he's doing and how counterproductive that is to what he claims?" For example, do Christians who promote or defend immodesty, homosexual practice, or other acts of immorality, whether on Facebook or face to face, actually realize how they look to God and to worldly people? Do Christians who forsake assembling with the local church because they are too involved with recreation not realize they are idolizing passing pleasures of this world in place of the eternal satisfaction of spiritual enrichment? Do Christians whose actions show they love this world more than God not realize the jeopardy in which they place their souls and the harm their influence brings on the local church?

The only true way to see ourselves as we really are is to look into the mirror of God's Word. "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. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:23-25). May each of us constantly examine ourselves with God's Word, not comparing ourselves with others (2 Corinthians 10:12-18). **The more we see ourselves as God sees us, the better we can adjust to be more like Jesus!**

- Gospel Gazette Online -

WARNING

9:00 a.m., 1:42 p.m., 1:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:40 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.

During the course of April 14, 1912, the R.M.S. Titanic received six warnings concerning icebergs. She received the last warning only 40 minutes before her collision.

Six warnings! All of which were ignored! As a result, 1500 passengers and crew lost their lives in the waters of the cold North Atlantic.

The Bible says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). We've heard the warning; now what will we do? (Acts 24:25; 26:27-28; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Acts 22:16).

- Mike Benson Oxford church of Christ Oxford, AL (via *Bulletin Digest*) -



Are your promises to God as binding as those you made to the bank?

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. The Covid-19 restrictions apply (masks & distancing).

SYMPATHY: To David Stefl at the passing of his brother, Clarence. God bless and comfort David at this time.

PICTURE GALLERY OF PAST MEMBERS: Submit pictures (black and white or color) to David Malcomson to be displayed in the glass door cabinets in the basement as a visual history of the church here.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Resumes Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Men, plan to participate in this study.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Saturday, August 7th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's. Men, come join in sharing a meal and fellowship.

NORTH CENTRAL OHIO BIBLE LECTURESHIP: Friday - Sunday, August 6 - 8, Lorain, OH with different speakers. See schedule on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Pancake mix and syrup.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Karen Meek (cancer). Karen is a friend of Sharon Sprout

SEND CARDS: To Katelyn Gorby (niece of Iris Durbin), 1310 Willow Street, Wellsville, OH 43968.

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: Jim Hadley, Tim Martin, Marilyn Miller, Barb DeLong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Emma Rine, Alex Harless, Rick Beck. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Sarah Miller (Room 6). **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Worthy Art Thou

John 4:24 is the New Testament's classic text on worship: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

An analysis of this passage reveals:

- 1) The **Action** - "Worship"
- 2) The **Aim** - "Him"
- 3) The **Absolute** - "Must"
- 4) The **Attitude** - "Spirit"
- 5) The **Authority** - "Truth"

Be it observed that the mandate "**must**" qualifies all aspects of the passage: the action, aim, absolute, attitude and authority.

- Wendell Winkler -

O for a heart to praise my God, a heart from sin set free!
A heart that always feels the blood so freely shed for me.

- Charles Wesley -