

Beholding We are Changed

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2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- I. But we all ...are changed ... even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - A. “we all...” – that is all of us who are saved; born again of the Spirit of God.
 - B. “...are changed...” – Everyone who is truly saved is changed from what they were into a new creature; old things are passed away (gone) behold all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - 1. This is a wonderful thing – to be changed and made new.
 - 2. To have a chance to start over.
 - 3. To be reconciled to God and to those on earth you have wronged.
 - 4. To be rid of the bondage that sin had brought into your life.
 - C. This is all brought about by the Spirit of God – not by anything we add to the mix.
 - 1. Not by our works.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- 2. How does the Spirit of God work to accomplish this in our life?

- II. With open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

Numbers 21:8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

- A. Look and live, my brother, live; look to Jesus now and live.
- B. With open face ...
 - 1. Not hiding your face from him.
 - 2. “With open face” means you know He is looking at you and sees your heart.
 - 3. Most people miss God because they won’t look.
 - 4. The reason they won’t look is because they don’t want him looking back at them.
- C. To understand this a little better think about this: Why do people hide their faces from each other?
 - 1. Basically, it is because they don’t want to be close to you – they want the relationship or the conversation limited, so they hide their face – they won’t look you in the eye.
 - 2. Other reasons people will hide their face (or refuse to look someone in the eye) include anger, fear, sin, shame, or they are hiding something or lying about something.

3. People keep a wall up around themselves to keep other people out because they fear being hurt, but in doing so, prevent themselves from truly loving others.
4. In order to love you must open your doors and allow others in, taking the risk of getting hurt.

D. Why do people hide their face from God?

1. Fear; that putting yourself in God's hands will cost you pain or loss.

Exodus 3:6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

- a) Afraid of what God might ask of you.
2. Sin and shame – you are hiding something and you don't want God looking at you.

Psalms 51:9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

III. Most of the time in the Bible it is God who is hiding his face from man.

- A. What do YOU do when someone refuses to look at you? You turn away, also.
- B. But God has made a way for us to see his face all the time – as in a glass.
 1. We are made in the image and likeness of God, so we can see in a glass as if it were the family resemblance.
- C. He gave us the written Word of God.
- D. He gave us the living Word of God – his Son Jesus Christ.
 1. So, ...turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face ...
- E. Because we live in a world cursed with sin and in a body of clay we are looking through a glass darkly now.

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1. We are looking at his reflection now but someday it will be literally face to face.
2. If what we can have now by looking through a glass darkly is so wonderful, what will it be then?
- F. But for now we are all changed from glory to glory into the same image we see in the glass by beholding him with open face.

1 Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

- G. Keep your eyes upon Jesus; this is how sanctification is accomplished.
- H. Always keep yourself in his view, and He will guide you with his eye.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: