

2-27-22

Sermon- Who Do You Think You Are!?

Scripture- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, CTW Ps 99

Hymns- 297, 460, 507

Theme- Look at the Word to find the real you, then boldly declare that that is who you are. The reason that the majority of Christians are weak, though they are earnest, yet they are weak, is because they have never dared to make a bold confession of what they are in Christ. Let us resolve to be bold in the Lord!

I. Introduction: Are You Walking In Disguise?

A. A man was looking for a job and he noticed that there was an opening at the local zoo. He inquired about the job and discovered that the zoo had a very unusual position that they wanted to fill.

Apparently their gorilla had died, and until they could get a new one, they needed someone to dress up in a gorilla suit and act like a gorilla for a few days.

He was to just sit, eat and sleep. His identity would be kept a secret, of course. Thanks to a very fine gorilla suit, no one would be the wiser.

The zoo offered good pay for this job, so the man decided to do it. He tried on the suit and sure enough, he looked just like a gorilla. They led him to the cage; he took a position at the back of the cage and pretended to sleep.

But after a while, he got tired of sitting, so he walked around a little bit, jumped up and down and tried a few gorilla noises. The people who were watching him seemed to really like that.

When he would move or jump around, they would clap and cheer and throw him peanuts. And the man loved peanuts. So he jumped around some more and tried climbing a tree. That seemed to really get the crowd excited. They threw more peanuts.

Playing to the crowd, he grabbed a vine and swung from one side of the cage to the other. The people loved it and threw more peanuts. Wow, this is great, he thought.

He continued to swing on the vine, getting higher and higher—and then the vine broke! He swung up and out of his cage, landing in the lion's cage that was next door.

He panicked. There was a huge lion not twenty feet away, and it looked very hungry. So the man in the gorilla suit started jumping up and down, screaming and yelling, "Help, help! Get me out of here! I'm not really a gorilla! I'm a man in a gorilla suit! Help!"

The lion quickly pounced on the man, held him down and said, "Will you SHUT UP! You're going to get both of us fired!"

B. Today we're going to examine the subject of who you really are. We're talking about The Man in the Mirror- An Accurate Reflection of the Real You.

Are you like this man pretending to be something you're not? Or have you been deceiving yourself for long that you actually believe you are something else? Who are you really? Who is the man in the mirror?

II. Who Do You Think You Are?

In **1 Corinthians 13: 11-12** "11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 **For now I see in a mirror, dimly**, but then I see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know **just as I also am known.**"

A. Ancient mirrors, which were manufactured at Corinth, were made of metal and gave dim reflections. That is why Paul says that now we see in a mirror, dimly. This is an illustration of our imperfect knowledge during this age.

And then, when we're in heaven, we'll know things instantly and knowledge will be full and complete.

But right now it's imperfect. Paul reminds us that now we see **(understand is a better word)** in a mirror, dimly. Have you ever seen your reflection in a spoon? It's kind of blurry and

distorted, right? What about seeing your reflection in a window? That's pretty dim, too, isn't it?

While there are certain things we won't know until we get to heaven, (like whether or not Adam and Eve had belly buttons), one thing we can know is who we are and what we look like.

Mirrors in Paul's day were metal and you couldn't see a very accurate reflection of yourself, it was kind of like looking into a spoon.

But in today's age, we have mirrors that very much display what we really look like. (Pull out mirror) Like this mirror, for instance.

If you look in this mirror, you can see yourself and what you look like. Well, if we want to know **who we really are**, what mirror do we look in?

We have to look to the Word as a mirror to show us who we really are.

III. Behold Yourself- Remember Moses

A. In the passage for today, Paul is talking about Moses. Moses and God had a meeting in which God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Moses got mad at the people because they had made this golden calf and started worshipping it instead of God, so he throws the two tablets on the ground and breaks them, then he tosses their calf into the fire.

Think about it, Moses is the only man ever to have broken ALL Ten Commandments at one time...literally!

Now, Moses meets with the Lord and they make up two new tablets, new look, same words. Well, Moses comes down from the mountain after meeting with God for forty days and he didn't know it, but his face was shining like crazy.

He didn't know it was shining, but everybody else did. And they were scared. Even his own brother wouldn't come near him.

After a while the people came near him and he gave them the Commandments again. Then after he had finished speaking with the people, he took a veil and covered his face.

Whenever Moses would go back in to meet with God, he'd take the veil off, and when he would come out, he'd put the veil back on.

If you remember, why was Moses' face shining? It was because he was filled with the glory of God. Now, Paul says, "If Moses day and time was that glorious, just think how much more glorious will be my day and time!

Moses was in the old covenant, Paul calls it the ministry of condemnation. We're in the new covenant, the ministry of righteousness and the glory abounds.

B. Paul says that even to this day, when the Old Covenant is read, a veil lies on their heart. They don't see the true glory, but when a person gives his life to God, the veil is taken away, and they see the true glory of the kingdom!

Then Paul goes on to say that "we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory."

We all, looking at our faces in the mirror, see the glory of God shining, and as we look at the glory, we're being transformed into the same image of glory and the Spirit of God is making that transformation. So who are **you**? What do **you** see?

You should see a person that has been transformed into the image of God by the Spirit of God.

IV. Paul Says That We Must Remember What We Are Supposed To Look Like!

James 1:22-24 reminds us of that: "22Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

A. How can that be? How can somebody look in the mirror and see themselves, and then walk away and forget what he looks like? I mean, you look in a mirror, walk away, then you're like, "Wait a minute? Am I bald? Am I fat? Am I

short? Do I have blue eyes? Am I missing teeth? What **do** I look like?"

In terms of our state of blessedness through Jesus Christ, It **IS** possible to look in the mirror and then forget what we look like in a spiritual sense.

There are two reasons that this can happen. **First** you don't believe the mirror is an accurate reflection of who you are. You don't trust the mirror.

Have you ever been to a fun house at a carnival or fair and walked through the hall of mirrors? You have certain mirrors there that are designed to make you look funny. You can stand in front of one mirror and look all muscular and big like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

You can stand in front of another and look extremely short and fat. You can stand in front of yet another and be ten feet tall and skinny as a rail.

These mirrors are NOT an accurate reflection of who you are. So you can walk away from these mirrors and forget what you looked like in them.

Why? Because you can't trust them. You can't trust worldly mirrors.

The **Second** reason you can look in a mirror and forget what you look like is that you're being deceived and you have a problem, The enemy is deceiving us into believing that we don't look like what the mirror says we look like.

B. We must understand that the mirror we're to look in to see the real us is the Word of God. But let me ask you something. Do you trust the mirror? Or do you walk away from it thinking you're not worthy?

Do you look at the **Word** that says you can do all things through Christ and then walk away thinking that you could never be good enough?

Do you look at the **Word** that says you have an anointing from the holy one and know all things and then walk away thinking that you will never be able to please God?

If you do that, then there's a reason. Either you don't trust the mirror or you're being deceived by Satan, who would love to undermine the work God has begun in you!

C. Do You trust that the Word of God is an accurate reflection of the real you? If so, then then you trust **HIS** mirror in this case. **Well, how is it then that you can see yourself in the Word and then walk away and act totally different than who you are?** You're being deceived.

You're letting the enemy pull the wool over your eyes.

You should look at the Word and be assured that **you are the redeemed of God!**

You are redeemed from the curse of the law, which means that you don't have to undergo sickness, disease, poverty, or lack.

Yet when the **sickness** comes, you take it and nurse it, or when **lack** is hanging over you, you let it steal all of your money away.

What's happening here? You said you trust the mirror, so the only other option is that the enemy is deceiving you. Don't let that happen. How do I stop it, Pastor Keith? I'm glad you asked.

V. Conclusion

A. Look at the Word to find the real you, then boldly declare that that is who you are. E. W. Kenyon says "The reason that the majority of Christians are weak, though they are earnest, yet they are weak, is because they have never dared to make a bold confession of what they are in Christ."

B. Practice these Nine Statements As You Look In the Mirror:

1. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. My spirit is created in the image and likeness of God.
2. I am complete in Christ Jesus.
3. I am righteous in Christ Jesus. I have right standing with God just like I'd never done anything wrong.
4. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
5. I am God's child and a joint-heir with Christ.

6. There is no lack for my God supplies all my needs, in every area of life, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

7. I have the mind of Christ.

8. I have an anointing from the Holy One and I know all things.

8. I will look in the mirror, the Word of God, and see an accurate reflection of myself, and I will never forget who I am or what I look like.

Folks, be blessed to own these truths about yourself. Keep this list handy, AMEN?

Let Us Pray...