

Reflection of a Mirror

- So accurate – in every home /restaurant /car
- quick glance – have a nearly exact replica
- only looking at a piece of silver coated glass but our eyes focus on clear reflected image
- we “**see**” the image, not silver on the glass
- This is the **only way** we can **see ourselves** or **what is behind us** when driving a car.

A Mirror that allows us to see God

- *because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Rom 1:19-20*

The Mirror of the Creation

- What no one can see directly with the eye, can be “*understood*” by looking at the “*mirror*” God designed and created for that purpose.
- The creation accurately reflects His eternal power into our hearts.
- God encourages us see in “*the things that are made*” “*His eternal power and Godhead*” “*Everlasting power and Divine Nature.*”

The Glory of God in Display

- *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. Ps 19:1-4*
- By viewing the wonders of life under the sea, the varieties of plants, or the multitudes of animal and insects, God's intelligence, wisdom, power and magnificence are manifested.

Not ALL Mirrors are Created Equal

- My passenger mirror: **“OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR”**
- “The surface may be either convex (bulging outwards) or concave (bulging inwards).
- A mirror with blemishes or distortions must be carefully assessed. Not everything reflected in such a mirror is an accurate portrial.



The “Mirror” of Creation has a “blemish”

- The creation God gave us in the beginning and the creation we live in today are not the same.
- Many get a very distorted view of God if they do not make this important distinction.
- What is Different can be seen by comparing Genesis 1 and Ecclesiastes 1.

The Original Creation Genesis 1

- Gen 1:4 Light was **good**
- Gen 1:10 Dry land(earth) and seas were **good**
- Gen 1:12 Plants and trees with seed - were **good**
- Gen 1:18 The sun moon and stars were **good**
- Gen 1:21 Creatures in the water & air were **good**
- Gen 1:25 Beasts, cattle, everything on ground was **good**.
- Gen 1:31 All that He had made:
- **Behold, it was very good.**

Man Had Full Dominion

- *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**" 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:26-28*

This was the perfect mirror of God

- Only Adam and Eve saw it.
- After they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and were cast out of the garden, everything changed.
- *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, Rom 5:12*
- *For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*
Gen 3:19

The Blemished Creation

- *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." Gen 3:17-19*
- God made it obvious to all that this is not the same creation.

The “Blemished” Creation

- **FROM VERY GOOD TO:**
- *"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Eccl 1:2-3*
- *And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. 14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered. Eccl 1:13-15*

The “Blemished” Creation Mirror

- *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 **"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."** 3 What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? Eccl 1:1-3*
- The difference is obvious!
- *Then God saw **everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.** So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Gen 1:31*
- From *everything is very good* to *all is vanity*.
- A very significant change

The Curse – Created a Blemish

- *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered. Eccl 1:14-15*
- *Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked? 14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Eccl 7:13-14*

The Blemishes Create Questions

- ◆ If God is good why did He create suffering?
- ▲ Why butterflies get caught in spider webs?
- ◆ Why did God create spiders with poison?
- ▲ Why do lions kill man and beast?
- ◆ Why are sharks killing machines?
- ▲ Why do some serpents have deadly poison?
- ◆ Why is man susceptible to so many diseases?
- ▲ Why is man so cruel to his fellow man?
- **THE ANSWER IS SIN FROM THE CURSE!**
- **Sin entered world thru man and death thru sin**



God's True Character

- *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*
James 1:16-18

God's True Intentions



- Of his own will he brought us forth James 1:18
- The Curse is no more! Rev 22:3
- Rev 21:4
- he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes;
- death shall be no more;
- neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away.

Suffering We Cannot Understand

- God made the creation very good!(Gen 1:31)
- Suffering was impossible in world God created
- Curse a just penalty for man's sin(Gen 3:17-19).
- The curse of sin is the reason for all suffering.
Eccl 1:13-15; Rom 8:20-23;
- We are to blame, not God. (Rom 5:12).

