

## **Two Mirrors** **Colossians 2:13-15**

In the palace of former King Abdullah of Jordan He positioned two mirrors in rooms where he entertained guests. One mirror made the guests look **thin**. It was placed in the room where guests assembled before dinner. And the other mirror was located in the hall where guests gathered after eating. It made them look **fat**.

**Weird sense of humor**—a mirror to make you **feel good** & a mirror to make you **feel guilty**. And yet there is **spiritual** application to the story. Every child of God looks into one of two mirrors. Gods mirror of forgiveness & acceptance—it makes us feel good. The other is the devils mirror of guilt & condemnation—it makes you feel bad.

For the Christian the only true & accurate way to see ourselves is from God's point of view-**His mirror of forgiveness & acceptance**. But w/o Christ, not born again-Jn 3-the only true & accurate picture of our condition is the devils mirror of **guilt & condemnation**. *Jn 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*KJ 3<sup>rd</sup> *mirror of conviction & repentance*

Guilt is a horrible felling. It **eats** away personality, **rots** the mind, **isolates** & **alienates** a person from normal relationships. Many create a make-believe world as a way of coping w/ guilt. Guilt is the product of **sin**---**missing the mark**, falling short, behaving contrary to how God made you.

Psychiatrist say if we could eliminate guilt from those in mental institutions we could release 80% of our patients. **Worlds ans-perscription drugs-take away feelings**

Sin plus time multi guilt add condemnation equals wretchedness **or** insanity (prodigal). Changes neurological pattern in brain...redirects synapses or electrical current of brain.

We start out in innocence yet as we yield to our sin nature, it takes toll.

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An artist sought to paint a picture of *innocence personified*, so he searched & found a little boy, **Rupert**, kneeling beside his mother at prayer in church, hands folded, blue eyes gazing heavenward w/ a childlike expression of devotion & peace. The portrait was masterful & hung prominently in the artist study. Years passed & the painter now an old man thought "*I want to paint a counter-part to my portrait of innocence, I'll paint **guilt personified***". He journeyed to the local prison & looked for a likely subject. Sprawled on the hard, damp cell floor lay a wretch of a man in heavy irons. His eyes hollow & sunken, he reeked of depravity and lechery. The painter captured the essence of this social outcast to be hung next to the picture of innocence. As the artist was leaving the prison he asked, 'what's your name?' The criminal replied *Rupert you painted me as a boy*

Unforgiven sin turns innocence into depravity. Sin + time x guilt & condemnation = wretchedness (wretched man-who will set me free **Rm 7:24**)

God has a **wonderful** mirror-forgiveness & acceptance for you to look into & Satan has a **horrible** mirror-guilt & condemnation.

Ch 1 & 2 are **doctrinal**, 3 & 4 **practical**. We've studied the doctrine of the deity of Christ—His all sufficiency & His inherent power to change lives.

Also see how the work of Christ on the cross cancels debt. Not **MC** or **Visa** but the debt we owe God because of our sin. There's a penalty to pay for breaking God's moral law. He cancelled our debt & has given forgiveness in place of guilt & condemnation for all who trust Christ as Lord & savior.

**Col 2:13-15** And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Two truths-1 What God has done **for** us-2 What God has done **to** the devil.

dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh' The bible assumes mans condition of **lost-ness**, that we are helpless & hopeless w/o God in the world. It is called being **dead**. **Rom 6:23** *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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**Rom 5:12** *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—We need to own our condition!* A hurdle for many

Death from God's point of view is not annihilation but separation **Eph 4:18** *being darkened in their understanding, excluded (**alienated**) from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart*

Excluded-Alienated Lit. 'utterly shut out' 'estranged' 'a non-participant in fellowship' **Eph 2:3**...*we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

God said to Adam *'in the day you eat you shall surely die.'* **1 Tim 5:6** *But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.* Separated from the life of God. *Dead in your*

*Transgression* – to revolt or rebel – you know it's wrong and do it anyway.

David & Bathsheba **Ps 32:1** *'Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.'* Every time it is used in the NT it carries the idea of *'a deliberate violation of the law.'*

*Uncircumcision of your flesh* - metaphor for the unruly flesh, built in weakness, natural inability, powerless to change your condition. **Rom 7:14,15;17** *For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do but I am doing the very thing I hate...no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me (**sin nature**). *Can't reform a pig--Irish spring, crest, old spice, powder, bow at table...but pigs nature is mud.**

Spurgeon-There is no beast in wolf or lion or serpent that is so brutish as the beast in man. According to the Levitical Law, he that touched a dead animal was unclean until evening, but he who touched a dead man was unclean 7 days. For man is 7 times more polluting a creature than any of the beasts of the field when his animal nature rules him.

**He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

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The cross has power greater than our condition. *If I get a ticket & neglect to pay it the law brings guilt. When I pay the guilt leaves & I feel free. Yet if the penalty is greater than my ability to pay, I'm at the mercy of the courts. Law says pay up or be condemned & sentenced. If judge steps down from behind bench, takes off robes & pays my fine, I'm free because the law is satisfied. It's what Jesus did. He paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.*

My sin needs a payment that satisfies the court of heaven. God requires a perfect sacrifice—His son, in my place. **Rom 4:25 He who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification (declared right).** **1Pet 1:18,19 Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**

Christ's resurrection gives proof of our pardon. **canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us** **Blotting out**, wiping clean every sin we ever did or even thought about doing. The guilty person's crimes were written in ink & hung as a placard above the criminal on cross or cell. It listed deeds that person was guilty of & condemned for. Some people have a long list others a short list but all have sinned and are condemned. **James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point he has become guilty of all. Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'**

Ancient ink did not have the bite of indelible inks today. No acid to grip the paper. So w/ a wet sponge it could be wiped clean. The picture is of Christ blood wiping a life clean from sin. It's not as if you have kept your sins secret, God knows—Belshazzar—**mocking God by drinking, praising pagan gods from Temple holy vessels** Dan 5:25 'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin'

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**He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

Made void legal obligations—writing against sinner taken to city gate & a nail driven thru document to city post, declaring obligations fulfilled, debt cancelled. So it is w/ Christ *vicarious* sacrifice, He cancelled our debt.

***Rom 8:3,4 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.***

The guilt is gone **Is 43:25** *'I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.*

**15** **When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**

What He did to the devil—the power to condemn is over--his mirror is

broken. *'There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.'*

*Disarm*/spoil--military terms for the enemy being subdued & subjected-

**March of triumph**—depiction of the conquering of Jerusalem and carrying away the spoil. Commanders would display the most valuable spoils of war.

Magnificent chariot pulled by two gleaming white horses. Pompey over Africa—on elephants. Mark Anthony—Lions. Titus w/ Temple treasures.

The spoil of Jesus ***Eph 4:8 When He ascended on high, he led captives in His train and gave gifts to men. NIV*** Jesus displays sinners, redeemed by His conquering work on the cross.

Because the enemy is conquered he has no authority over us. The tables are turned thru Christ ***we are more than conquerors thru Christ who loved us.***

**Five Amorites kings**--***Josh 10:24,25 When they brought these kings out to Joshua, Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, 'Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.'*** So they came near and put their feet on their necks. Joshua then said to them, ***"Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies with whom you fight."***

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*Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Rankings of fallen spirit beings—demonic authorities *Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*1 John 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*

Illus--Enemy ruins himself in seeking to ruin the master. 'I beat you for I took away your prized possession.' Owner said 'this is my architect, this tree must be removed in order to build my beautiful new mansion. You unwittingly have done my will and in the process destroyed yourself.'

The devil knows he's defeated so he uses guilt, deception, temptation, condemnation & even religion to keep us from the truth—In Christ our sins has been dealt with. We look unto Jesus and at ourselves in Christ mirror of forgiveness and acceptance.

*2 Cor 5:19-20....that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*