

Welcome to our SonRise service. We are looking forward to a wonderful Easter celebration in a few weeks. In order to offer options, a safe gathering, and extra space to accommodate everyone, we are creating an outdoor worship experience at 9:00. The music at this service will be acoustic, and the whole service will be a little abbreviated, but it will be a meaningful time of worship for those who want to take advantage of this option. We will only provide childcare for children two and under. We are trying to make preparations for both experiences. Although we don't want to create a reservation type experience, it will help us to have a general idea of how many people we'll have at each service. You may have already let us know your family's plans through the link sent in a recent email. If you haven't would you mind using this link to take you to a site where you can let us know your anticipated plans: <https://bit.ly/2ORalfM>

Today's Sermon Notes:

Living By the Book – A Mirror Reflecting my Soul

We've all seen beautiful reflections of mountain scenes on the surface of the clear waters of a mountain lake. The Bible says that God's Word is like a mirror reflecting a true picture of who we are. A mirror reflects what we're like on the outside, but God's Word reflects what we're like on the inside. How do we respond to this mirror called the Bible?

James 1:22-25 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1. _____ at the mirror of God's Word.

James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

2. _____ by the teaching of God's Word.

James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

- God is more interested in our hearts than He is our hands, our love relationship than our efforts. When God has our hearts through a relationship, he has all of us.
- Luke 6:45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

- Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it *flow* the springs of life.
- Abide means staying in the same place over a period of time.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.
- “Abide by it” means staying in the same place spiritually as we live our lives according to the Bible. We must read the Bible and adjust our lives to what we read.
- James 1:23-25

3. _____ according to the revelation of God’s Word.

James 1:17-18 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. 18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

2 Corinthians 3:15-18 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- Why did God call His Word the perfect law, the law of liberty?
- God’s Word sets us free to love and free to live. Really live.
- John 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

A Few Thoughts and Questions to Consider...

- What will you do this week to look intently at the Word of God?
- How will you abide by the teaching of God’s Word this week? Is there anything you need to change?
- Spend some time thinking about how you will take intentional steps to respond in love and deepen your relationship with Christ through time in His Word this week.