

Scripture Reading: James 1:17-27

*The word of God is more than enough for the people of God
to live their lives for the glory of God. —Kevin DeYoung*

The apostle James in today's Bible reading mentions mirrors. Studies show that women check the mirror upwards of 40 times a day; men less so. For men, looking in a mirror is simply a matter of gathering data; for women, it's to confirm the worst.

The simplest mirror is water, as Narcissus in Greek mythology discovered. Nature lovers are thrilled when, in the early morning hours, they come across a woodland pond or alpine lake that is as still as glass, reflecting the pines and mountains above the clear water.

The largest natural mirror is *Salar de Uyuni*. At 4,000 square miles, Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat, about 100 times bigger than the Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah. And when water from the mountains floods this plain, the sky seems to join the earth in an impression of infinity. It's one of the most remarkable scenes in the world.

The Salar de Uyuni is spectacular, no doubt. But the mirror described in today's reading is even more amazing because the mirror is the word of God. But why is it so incredibly amazing?

It's amazing because it's perfect. The apostle James calls it "perfect" and according to the 20th-century Scottish divine, William Barclay, it's perfect in at least three ways. It's perfect because, first, *it is God's law*. Humans may pass bad laws, and we can all think of a few. This amazing "mirror," however, is the "perfect law" because it comes from God.

Second, it's perfect because *it cannot be bettered*. This law comes from God! Who would be so silly as to write another law that supersedes the law of God? This is as good as it gets and it can't get better. In fact, it is the law of "liberty" or freedom. Following this law, one is truly free. And liberty is what we all want, is it not?

And third, it is perfect because *it's directed toward an end*. A jar designed to hold a pint of milk is perfect insofar as it holds the milk! No cracks or leaks. God's law is perfect because its goal, end or purpose is to fashion vessels of perfection who *are* what they are designed to be: the image of God! We reflect the glory of God — that is, put God on display.

Let's take a long look at ourselves in this amazing mirror, and then be "doers of the word" by responding to what we see.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for your word revealed to us through Scripture. May I live according to its wisdom. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Galatians 4-6
- Monday:** 1 Chronicles 4-6
- Tuesday:** 1 Chronicles 7-9
- Wednesday:** 1 Chronicles 10-13
- Thursday:** 1 Chronicles 14-16
- Friday:** 1 Chronicles 17-19
- Saturday:** Psalms 94-96

STATE I.D.

You are a detective. Your supervisor needs you to identify some license plates. She gives you a list. Each item in her list below contains **THREE LETTERS**. All the letters are in consecutive order. What states are listed here?

NNE	
AWA	
IAN	
ENT	
RYL	
SAC	
CHI	
EBR	
PSH	

RSE	
AHO	
ODE	
ERM	
RGI	
HIN	
ELA	
SOU	
OLO	

[Use this area for notes]

Change one letter in each word to spell seven words associated with LAND:

TREK

BRASS

DART

SHONE

WELD

HALL

DOCK

Solution to STATE I.D.:

- NNE=Connecticut, Tennessee
 - AWA=Hawaii, Delaware
 - IAN=Indiana
 - ENT=Kentucky
 - RYL=Maryland
 - SAC=Massachusetts
 - CHI=Michigan
 - EBR=Nebraska
 - PSH=New Hampshire
 - RSE=New Jersey
 - AHO=Idaho, Oklahoma
 - ODE=Rhode Island
 - ERM=Vermont
 - RGI=Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia
 - HIN=Washington
 - ELA=Delaware
 - SOU=Missouri
 - South Carolina
 - South Dakota
 - OLO=Colorado
- Solution to LAND:** tree, grass, dirt, stone, weed, hill, rock.

