Beacon Community Church
Sunday 18th July 2021 led by Pastor Paul

As we join together, whether in person here in church or at Home on Zoom, Facebook or just reading the notes provided. My prayer is that God will enrich your lives and bless you all abundantly. Our prayer is that very soon we can safely unite in Praise and Worship of God’s name all together here at Church.

Today we also welcome Chris & Tracey from back home in North Wales.

### Hymn – Be Thou my Vision

### Prayer

### James 1:19-27 Listening & Doing

### This section of James Letter is quite enlightening as we look around ourselves today and gasp at the what ifs and may Be’s when things change tomorrow. We see in Scotland masks will remain in place, as they will be in Wales, including the 2mtr Distance law. We saw the letter that over 1200 scientists and doctors wrote the Prime Minister and the confusion goes on and on.

### James encourages us to stay focused and endure in our faith in God through Christ. In Chapter 1 - 12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him

### Then in Chapter 4:8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

### These are words of great comfort that come to us with some grave warnings – yet we don’t half love hearing about the comforting words and ways of God, don’t we.

### In the verses we read at the outset of the message today, we see a lot of emphasis is placed on listening and doing.

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### Verse 19 -Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry!

### So often we don’t half get this the wrong way around don’t we are so often quick to speak and slow to listen which fast turns to anger.

### So we are told in verses 20-21 to get rid of such rubbish in our lives that God has no desire of, and then focus on God’s Word as a mirror in our lives.

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### In verses 22-25 - Scripture described as at Mirror for our lives.

There's one humble reason to stare long and often at ourselves in a mirror, for there is so much to learn of ourselves

The very first bit of advice given is "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

“The times I have seen people being dressed up to the nines on a Sunday going to church, more often with a hymn book under their arm, not a Bible” yet Monday through to Saturday their lives are far from what God desires. Its no-good listening to a sermon if it is never applied to our lives.

James uses an everyday item, which is still used today – How many of us today did not look in the mirror, to clean our teeth, shave, do our hair, put our collar and tie on straight.

Anyone?

Now how many of you women have a compact mirror in your handbag. – well if you haven’t no worries in the women’s toilet there is a mirror – None in the men’s, is that because we are not so bothered in appearance.

James uses the Mirror to define a practice to adopt and live by.

“But, anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does "  [James 1:22-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A22-25+&version=NIV;KJV;NLT;AMP)

We should regularly stare into the mirror of God's "perfect law that gives freedom." not just on Sundays but daily to recognise exactly Gods desire on our lives.

Here's my simple acronym for James 1:25: **L.O.R.D.**
**Look into God's Word...
Often, regularly, faithfully.
Remember what you read. Recite, memorise, and pop it in your diary.
Do it!** **Obey what you learn.**

As we continually stare at our reflection in the mirror of God's Word, we give Him increasing lordship over our lives:

1. We honestly see our sins and the measure of our faith ([Romans 12:3](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-3.htm)).

Because of the privilege and authority[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A3&version=NLT#fen-NLT-28210a)] God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us!

Never mind how is everything this morning, How strong is your faith in God.

1. We correctly understand truth and error ([2 Timothy 2:15](https://biblehub.com/2_timothy/2-15.htm)).

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

1. We see Christ clearly so we can reflect Him more clearly ([2 Corinthians 3:18](https://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/3-18.htm)).

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

Let's not neglect **"Godly mirror gazing day in and day out."** Amen

Notices –

Monday –10:30 – 12:00 pray for all the Pastors and leaders within the WRU who meet together on Zoom with Paul & Fiona Jones Joining us with Songs and testimony titled to let go and God have His way.

Monday – 8pm Prayer meeting Zoom
Friday – 7:30 for 8:00pm Quiz

Sunday next – Pastor Paul with a twist – not to be missed.

Next Sunday and thereafter – we will attempt to praise as we sing with our masks on, we will keep to the rota basis for Sunday Services as we have done so for the last few months, thanks to Michelle and Ann for running this. However, if you are off on holiday and Sundays don’t fall right for you, we will accommodate you to attend as and when you are able to. This will continue towards the end of August or until we will advise you.

**Words of - Be thou my Vision**

1. Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart, naught ne all else to me save that Thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day and by night. Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

1. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word, Born of thy love, Thy child my I be. Thou in me dwelling and I One with Thee.
2. Be Thou my buckler, My sword for the fight, Be Thou dignity, Thou my delight. Thou my souls shelter, Thou my high tower, Raise thou me heaven ward O Power of all power
3. Riches I Need not, nor vain empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always Thou and Thou only, first in my heart. Ruler of heaven my treasure Thou art.
4. True light of Heaven, when victory is won. May I reach heavens joys, O bright heavens Sun! Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my Vision, O ruler of all.

**Words of our closing Hymn – Take my Life and let it be**

1. Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in endless praise x 2
2. Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of the Love, Take my feet and let them be. Swift and beautiful for Thee x 2
3. Take my voice and let me sing, always only for my king. Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee. X2
4. Take my silver and gold my gold, not a mite would I withhold, Take my intellect and use.

Every power as Thou as thou shalt Choose x 2

1. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine, take my heart it is Thine own. It shall be thy Royal Throne X 2
2. Take my love, my Lord I Pour, at thy Feet its treasure store, Take myself, and I will be.

Ever, only, all for Thee x2

**Amen**

May God bless you all abundantly, and I pray that as we ebb out of this pandemic, God will protect us all and enable us to make wise choices for our safety and the safety of others.

Yours in Christ Pastor Paul