

## Fooling Ourselves

Self-awareness can be described in many ways. Knowing the person you are inside is the beginning of a successful life (or so they say). The ability to look at oneself in the mirror objectively is a difficult achievement because many of us look into a “magic” mirror which hides the person we truly are. With Satan’s help our society is becoming more and more permissive, convincing us that no matter what lifestyle we choose it should be accepted and embraced as long as it falls into a skewed sense of morality.

However, for the disciple of Christ that illusion is shattered when we look into the “perfect” mirror of God’s word. In it we learn that there are “none righteous” (Rom. 3:10) and “all have sinned and fall short” (Rom. 3:23). All people need the forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ through obedience and if we believe “I’m OK” without obeying God then we are just fooling ourselves (Gal. 6:3). We’re not to think more highly of ourselves than we should (Rom. 12:3) and the Lord will reject the proud heart but accepts the humble (James 4:6). If the Apostle Paul who possessed a great faith, preached boldly, and suffered for the Gospel yet said he was the “chief of sinners” where does that leave us? We must never be convinced that sin is alright but having a realistic view of ourselves and having a sense of self-worth are two different things. God loved us so that He gave His Son for us and that we are “worth more than many sparrows” (Matt. 10:31).

*Jay Launius 2019*

*Maud church of Christ*

*Maud, Texas*