

A dark wooden vanity with a large, empty mirror mounted on a dark grey wall. The mirror is rectangular with a dark frame and is positioned centrally above the vanity. The vanity has a dark, polished surface and a small shelf or compartment at the top. The background is a solid, dark grey wall.

The Mirror of Truth

James 1:21-25

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²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

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Elements of True Examination

- Readiness to Look
 - *1 Corinthians 10:12* Lest we fall
 - *2 Peter 3:17* Beware lest fall or led away
 - *2 Corinthians 13:5* “Examine yourselves
... Test yourselves”

Elements of True Examination

- **Standard of Examination**

- *1 Peter 1:22-25* Purified by truth (gospel)
- *John 17:17* Sanctifying done by truth
 - How sanctifying occurs (*Eph. 5:25-27*)
- *1 John 2:3-6* Knowing God → Obedience

Elements of True Examination

- **Specific Points of Examination**
 - *Hebrews 3:12-14* Heart of unbelief
 - *Hebrews 12:14-16* Bitterness – immorality
 - *Acts 20:29-31* Falling to false teaching
 - *Revelation 2:4-5* Leaving first love
 - *Revelation 3:1-3* No works to perfection
 - *Philippians 3:13-15* Single-minded pursuit
 - Reason for lists of sins prevalent in NT

Elements of True Examination

- Action after Inspection
 - *Ephesians 6:13-17* Having done all... stand
 - *1 Peter 1:13-17* Obedient – Be holy as God
 - *Matthew 7:21-23* Must DO will of God
 - *Luke 8:19-21* How Jesus identifies family

**Are we truly examining ourselves
by the truth of the gospel?**

