

46-13-01-The Reflection of Glory

memorial, death, knowledge, Alzheimer's, deterioration

1 Cor 13:12

There'll be much more to know, when we see more clearly.

1 Cor 13:12 (NIV), Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

INTRODUCTION:

–read text; title

–[**Mirrors** in ancient times were made from highly polished brass. Later the Greeks and Romans used polished silver. But these mirrors required lots of care, because through time and use, they were scratched, stained and tarnished until the reflections in them were of an increasingly poor quality.]

–In our relationships with people on earth we only begin to know them. Sometimes conditions of the aging brain, such as senility and Alzheimer's disease, darken that process even more. The Apostle Paul's words on this facet of the *human condition* was: “we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror” – This may be a present reality, but **not the ultimate reality.** **HOM.idea.** But for right now, much is hidden, *such as...*

I. The Hidden Glory of the Human Soul

- A. The soul is expressed through the body [**Body language** lets one soul communicate to a world of others; (ie, **facial expressions**)]
- B. Body break-down is deceptive (“*Who's doing that inside?*”) [**Cars break down**, doing things that the drivers have no control over.]
- C. Body expiration [last emission of breath] – the human spirit no longer able to express its glory through the material body.

TRANS: Most of us wish for a quick exit from earth. Few get their wish. God's general policy seems to be weaning us off slowly from this life by allowing the mirror to reflect the glory more and more dimly. We watch *friends depart, health fade, mobility decline...* so that we finally know the meaning of the Sunday School song, “*This world is not my home, I'm just a-passin' through...*” Jesus said He wanted to take us to a better place, **a place where we will see and know more clearly.** *It will be....*

II. A Future With the Mirror Removed

- A. **1 Corinthians 13:12** (Message)-- We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!
- B. **Imagine! seeing face to face** for the first time the souls we knew only through *fragile, unstable* and *deteriorating* bodies. [small chemical changes in the brain can alter our perceptions of others... sometimes those who are departing may not even recognize us.]
- C. **Imagine! partial knowledge changed to full knowledge** (We often go through times of much misunderstanding, but then we will *fully understand each other* [an old Ira Sankey Hymn:]

When the mists have rolled in splendor
From the beauty of the hills,
And the sunlight falls in gladness
On the river and the rills,
We recall our Father's promise
In the rainbow of the spray:
We shall know each other better
When the mists have rolled away.

We shall come with joy and gladness
We shall gather round the throne;
Face to face with those that love us,
We shall know as we are known:
And the song of our redemption
Shall resound through endless day,
When the shadows have departed,
And the mists have rolled away.

CONCLUSION:

–I was once a doubter. Through a philosophical journey, I regained faith in the Gospel. To me, Jesus offers not just the most *logical* answer to the *human condition*, but the most encouraging one.
–I believe that *if our departed loved one could speak to us right now*, they's be saying, “*You haven't seen anything yet.*”
–**There'll be much more to know, when we see more clearly.** In the meantime, *get to know the God of the journey.* You owe it to Him, and you owe it *the hidden glory* in your own soul.