

means it? Simply that we have withdrawn our gaze from Christ, and forgotten the important truth, that the blood of Christ, cleanseth from all unrighteousness. If we look merely upon the surface of a smooth pool of water we may see nothing more than our own countenance portrayed to us. But by looking farther down into the depths of the water, we may see something more. We may behold the trees, the clouds and other objects portrayed in the bottom of the pool. So, as we first look upon Christ, we may be able to see nothing more than our own imperfections. The person of Christ presents such a clear and lustrous background, that we can behold all our imperfections as they are presented to us. If we have had such a vision as this, we must have been dismayed. You told me that it was only by looking to Christ that I might hope to be made better. I have looked you say, and now am more miserable than before. God may give us such a vision, in order that we may behold what we are by nature. But he not dismayed at the picture, but continue to look to Christ. So long as we look simply upon our sin, so long will we continue to mourn. Look down into the very depths of God's nature, and there we will see love that surpasseth knowledge. At first we could behold nothing but our own imperfections reflected in the spotless person of Christ. But as we continue to gaze, and as repentance does its work, we see the sympathy of a loving Saviour. Previously our own sins clouded our vision, but now they have been blotted out, and we look beyond, even into the very heart of God. This is the vision that purifies and transform a man. For, as the Apostle Paul says, "Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

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