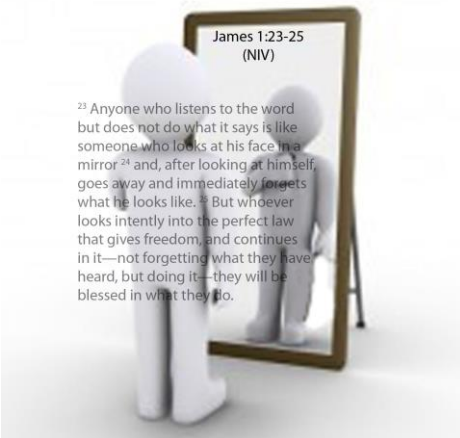


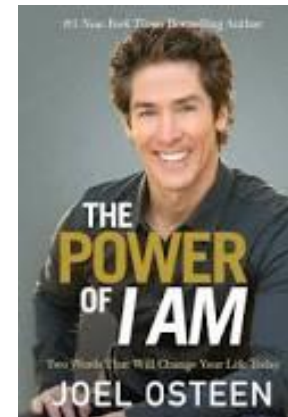
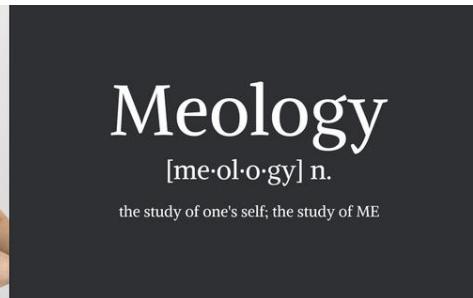
Bible as a mirror

James 1:23-24 “Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he look like.”

Spending the past two years in Taiwan as missionary, I had opportunity to visit various churches from time to time. My heart was saddened this past Sunday sitting at a church listened to a sermon from a Taiwanese missionary. In his 75-minute message, no Bible verses were refereed and no God’s Word was told. He shared his own life story about how God dramatically turned his life around from being deeply in debt to now debt free and become a part-time missionary. From worshiping all gods to now worshiping the most powerful God of all-Jesus. He concluded his sermon by saying “all of us are pursuing 5 things in life-Family, Career, Wealth, Health and Marriage. Just go to Jesus, He will give you all of these because Ephesians 3:20 (only mentioned Bible verse) says” “God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.” That reminded me of Joel Osteen’s “The power of I AM” book. Joel preaches positive thinking about yourself. You have to declare by saying “I AM beautiful”, “I AM strong”, “I AM Creative”. Then God will grant you fame and fortune in this life. Obviously, This “Me-Ology” (aka Feeling-Good theology) is not the Theology taught in the Bible. James 1 tells us that the Bible, God’s Word, is like a mirror. It shows us what condition we are in as sinners. We cannot only glance God’s Word for 5 minutes in the morning saying I am done my duty as a Christian. We ought to look carefully into God’s Word (God’s mirror) everyday so we can repent and strive to change into Jesus’ likeness. Prosperity theology is very popular in Taiwan and many parts of the world. Pastors pick and choose Bible verses that fit into that frame to please the audience. At SYME, we teach God’s Word in totality. We teach Joseph’s long and miserable life before he became 2nd man of Pharaoh to save his kinsman. We teach God’s mercy and love along with his wrath against evil. We teach God helped David to kill Goliath but stopped him from killing the jealous king Esau. We teach the happy ending of Daniel’s three Jewish friends who held tight to their allegiance to God and survived the fiery furnace. We teach almost all of Jesus’ disciples died as martyr for sharing the good news of Jesus. We teach Jesus’ ultimate sacrificial and scandalous death on the cross that concluded His life on earth. The Bible never teaches a rosy road to worldly happiness but carrying the cross of Jesus to follow His way to Calvary. The Bible promised us an eternal life in Christ. Only God himself and nothing else can fill the void inside us.



²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.



1. July is a busy month at SYME. We have more than 10 teachers/staff and more than 20 students joined us for summer term which runs till the end of August. This year specially, we have a handful of students who suffered from various types of learning disabilities. Please pray that we all strive to offer a loving environment to accommodate their special needs so God's name be glorified.
2. On top of our regular SYME operation, our camp staff has hosted 3 English summer camps at three different churches with 3 more to go with estimated total more than 300 kids reached. Please pray that the love we shared to those young students can reflect God's love toward man. The gospel seeds planted can grow into harvest down the road.
3. Our Free Monday night English café is getting stronger and stronger which attracted about 60 people weekly in the past few weeks mostly non-Christians from the neighboring area. Please pray that we don't only plant the gospel seeds but also boldly speak the truth directly into the hearers' heart to reap the fruit of gospel. I was so touched by a young Christian sister who suffered severe depression. She shared how her depression dragged her down to almost death by suicide but by God's grace or prayer by others, she could be able to come out here every Monday with a motivation to learn English. Her goal is that one day she can pray for people of all nations in English. Her testimony moved the seekers who sat in my table.
4. It's a very hot summer in Taiwan with temperature soaring up to almost 100F everyday . The electricity bills runs so high at our facility and dormitories that we are in deficit this year so far at SYME. If God touches you, could you consider donating a special utility fund to SYME "specify on your donation check" to help relief our financial burden? Donation Fund ID: 07611S





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Schroon Lake, NY 12870

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With Love,