

Deceived or Blessed

Reading: James 1:19-27



True religion that God accepts



Glasgow Forum of Faiths
DECLARATION

THE current world situation has exposed the fragility of inter-faith relations and the need for an initiative that helps faith communities to listen and build relationships with each other. There is also an urgent need to show the general public that religion should not be a source of strife and that inter-faith activity is worthwhile.

The Forum of Faiths will bring together civic authorities and leaders of the main faith communities, who have subscribed to this Declaration, to work together for mutual understanding and the good of the City of Glasgow. We hope the Forum of Faiths will contribute to a better understanding of shared religious values.

The Forum of Faiths will

- a) work towards a framework within which faith communities can offer help and support to each other;
- b) bring together leading members of constituent faith communities to discuss issues of common concern;
- c) support and encourage events of a multi-faith and multi-cultural nature.

The aims of this initiative are:

- a) to promote mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of different faith communities in the Glasgow area including an awareness of their common ground and a respect for their distinctive features;
- b) to recognise the problems experienced in the practice of any faith within the local community and to work for their solution;
- c) to work for harmony and peaceful co-existence and to promote dialogue and friendship between people of different faiths;
- d) to oppose prejudice wherever it exists in the local community;
- e) to work with faith groups and other inter-faith organisations for shared religious values within civic society.

Subscribed:

<u>A. M. Coffey</u> On behalf of the Baha'i faith	<u>Lama Tashi Lozel</u> On behalf of the Buddhist faith
<u>Nathan St. John</u> On behalf of The Church of Scotland	<u>John Searns</u> On behalf of the Roman Catholic Church
<u>John St. John</u> On behalf of the Scottish Episcopal Church	<u>Shri Ravi</u> On behalf of the Hindu faith
<u>Stephen Weiss</u> On behalf of the Jewish faith	<u>K. Khan</u> On behalf of the Muslim faith
<u>N.S. Benjamin</u> On behalf of the Sikh faith	<u>Sri Ravi</u> On behalf of the Santhalya Bhoi
<u>Alfred Wilson</u> Lord Provost, on behalf of the City of Glasgow	

Don't be deceived by the prevalent man...

- ***Identification***

- *Slow to listen*
- *Quick to speak*
- *Quick to anger*

- ***Conclusion***

- *Does not bring the righteous life God is looking for*

- ***Exhortation***

- *Q/S/S*
- *2 step: take out, put in*

- ***Blessing***

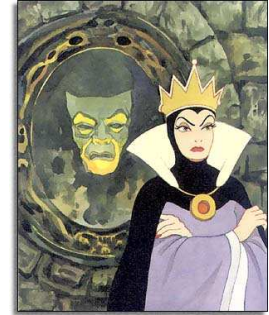
- *Salvation*



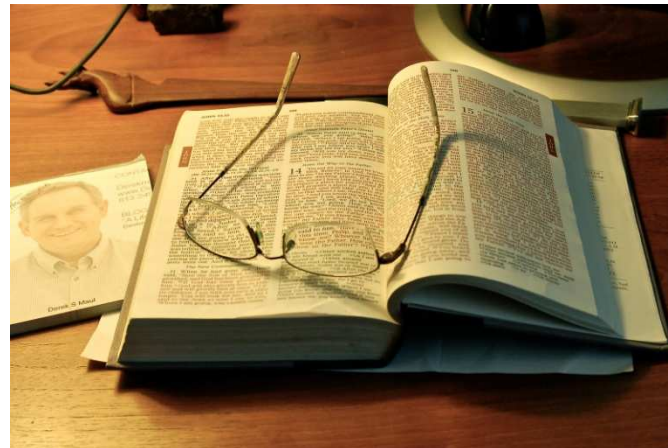
Don't be deceived by the natural man...

- **Identification**

- *Listens to the Word but does not do*



Who God sees	discipline	source	persistence	action	conclusion
NATURAL MAN	looks	mirror	leaves	forgets	deceived
SPIRITUAL MAN	looks intently	law of liberty	continues	remembers and acts	blessed



Be a spiritual man...

- *Identification of natural man*
 - *Listens to the Word but does not act*
- *Conclusion*
 - *Deceived*
- *Exhortation*
 - *Act upon what you learn*
- *Blessing*
 - *In what he does*



Don't be deceived by the religious man...

- ***Identification***

- *Tongue out of control*

- ***Conclusion***

- *Deceived, religion worthless*

- ***Exhortation***

- *Live a pure and faultless religion*
- *Keep yourself from the evil*
- *Look after the needy in distress*

- ***Blessing***

- *Acceptance by God*

