

May 17, 2020

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

James 1:22-25

“Respond Properly to the Word of God – Part 2”

- I. Prescript (1:1)**
- II. Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)**
- III. Stop Being Misled (1:16-18)**
- IV. Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)**
 - A. Reception (19-21)**
 - B. Action (22-25)**
 - 1. Exhortation (22)**

- 2. Example #1: Negative (23-24)**

- 3. Example #2: Positive (25)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Last Sunday morning, Pastor Paul challenged everyone to read through Psalm 119 every day and find the blessings that come from God's Word in the life of a believer. Share with one another all the blessings that you found.
2. What role does on-going repentance of sin and confession to God have in our daily study of the Bible? What happens when we try to hang on to sin and study the Scripture at the same time?
3. The exhortation in James 1:22 is to "**prove yourselves** doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." The command "prove yourselves" literally means "**become**" (to enter or assume a certain state or condition). James is commanding them to have this become the characteristic pattern of their lives; their habitual way of living. How does becoming a doer of the word (action) demonstrate that we have truly received the word implanted which is able to save our souls (reception)?
4. Read Ezekiel 33:30-33. What did the people do right? What did they do wrong? How might this same problem be happening today in our church? How can we avoid making the same mistake they did? Extra credit: find other passages where the people read or listened to the Word of God but didn't obey.
5. People who are merely hearers of the word "delude themselves" (to deceive with often subtle and superficial reasoning). What are some specific examples of superficial reasoning that enable us to hear the Word but not obey it? How would you answer someone who gave you that line of reasoning? How can we become more sensitive to our subtle rationalizations for not obeying God's Word?
6. What is the point of James' first example in 1:23-24? Have you ever looked in a mirror and forgot to do something about it? When is the best time to do something about what you see in the mirror? If a person is convicted of sin in their life during a sermon, then drives away doing nothing about it. Comes back the next week and is convicted about something else but does nothing about it. What is the danger? According to James, should this person have an assurance that they are saved?
7. Note all the differences you can find in James' second example in 1:25. Note: the words "looks at" in v. 23 and "looks intently" in v. 25 are synonyms. In both cases the person looked very carefully. What other differences in attitude and action can you find?
8. The word "become" in v. 25 is the same Greek word as "prove yourselves" in v. 22. The person in vv. 23-24 "became" a forgetful hearer. The person in v. 25 "became" an effectual doer. How did this happen? What did the person in v. 25 consistently do in order to "become" what he was commanded to become in v. 22?
9. List some specific practices that you can apply on a daily basis in order to "become" an effectual doer of God's Word. What are the benefits of doing this? How will a person who lives this way consistently be "blessed in what he / she does"? [Note: refer back to your study of Psalm 119. Look also at Psalm 1, Psalm 19, Joshua 1]
10. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 1:22-25** and quote it in the morning, at noon, and at night every day this week [Remember: there is a really nice dinner waiting for all who memorize the whole book of James by the time we conclude studying it]. Ask the Lord to enable you to see the areas of self-deception which has allowed you to hear the Word of God but not do it. Commit extra time in your daily devotions (and other times during the day) to "abide" in the Word of God.

- I. Prescript (1:1)
- II. Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)
- III. Stop Being Misled (1:16–18)
- IV. Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19–27)

¹⁹ *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;
²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)

A. Reception (19-21)

1. Mandate – “must be” (19)
2. Motive – “for” (20)
3. Method – “putting aside... receive” (21)

Psalm 78:36–37 (NASB95) – ³⁶ But they deceived Him with their mouth and lied to Him with their tongue. ³⁷ For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant.

Isaiah 29:13–14 (NASB95) – ¹³ Then the Lord said,
“Because this people draw near with their words and
honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their
hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists
of tradition learned *by rote*, ¹⁴ therefore behold, I will
once again deal marvelously with this people,
wondrously marvelous; and the wisdom of their wise
men will perish, and the discernment of their discerning
men will be concealed.”

Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)

A. Reception (19-21)

B. Action (22-25)

1. Exhortation (22)

²² But **prove yourselves doers** of the word, and not **merely hearers** who **delude** themselves.

Wrong Ways to Interpret & Apply God's Word:

1. Post-Modern (Relativism) Approach

Wrong Ways to Interpret & Apply God's Word:

1. Post-Modern (Relativism) Approach
2. Magical Approach (Osmosis)

Wrong Ways to Interpret & Apply God's Word:

1. Post-Modern (Relativism) Approach
2. Magical Approach (Osmosis)
3. Mystical Approach

Wrong Ways to Interpret & Apply God's Word:

1. Post-Modern (Relativism) Approach
2. Magical Approach (Osmosis)
3. Mystical Approach
4. Emotional Approach

Wrong Ways to Interpret & Apply God's Word:

1. Post-Modern (Relativism) Approach
2. Magical Approach (Osmosis)
3. Mystical Approach
4. Emotional Approach
5. Academic Approach

Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)

A. Reception (19-21)

B. Action (22-25)

1. Exhortation (22)

2. Example #1: Negative (23-24)

²³ For if anyone is a **hearer** of the word and **not a doer**, he is like a man who **looks at his natural face in a mirror**;
²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and **gone away**, he has immediately **forgotten** what kind of person he was.

Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)

A. Reception (19-21)

B. Action (22-25)

1. Exhortation (22)

2. Example #1: Negative (23-24)

3. Example #2: Positive (25)

²⁵ But one who **looks intently** at the **perfect law**, the *law* of **liberty**, and **abides** by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an **effectual doer**, this man will be **blessed** in what he does.

Psalm 119:111 (NASB95) – I have inherited Your testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

Psalm 119:162 (NASB95) – I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great spoil.

“Faith is a life-dominating conviction that all God has for me through obedience is better by far than anything the world or Satan offers me through selfishness and sin.”

(Dr. David Hegg)

John 8:31–36 (NASB95) – ³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵ “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶ “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

So What?

1. Which are you becoming? A forgetful hearer or an effectual doer?

So What?

1. Which are you becoming? A forgetful hearer or an effectual doer?
2. To become effectual doers we must first understand God's Word correctly.

So What?

1. Which are you becoming? A forgetful hearer or an effectual doer?
2. To become effectual doers we must first understand God's Word correctly.
3. Then we must actively choose to BECOME doers of what we have studied.

So What?

1. Which are you becoming? A forgetful hearer or an effectual doer?
2. To become effectual doers we must first understand God's Word correctly.
3. Then we must actively choose to BECOME doers of what we have studied.
4. Enjoy the liberating, blessed life of the person who forsakes the foolishness of the world and follows Jesus obediently down the path of righteousness for His name's sake.