

May 24, 2020

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

James 1:26-27

“Respond Properly to the Word of God – Part 3”

- 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)**
 - C. Transformation (26-27)**
 - 1. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)**
 - a. False Proclamation (26a)**

 - b. No Transformation (26b)**

 - c. Eternal Damnation (26c)**
 - 2. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)**
 - a. God’s Proclamation (27a)**

 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)**
 - 1) Controlled Tongue (26b)**

 - 2) Compassionate Heart (27b)**

 - 3) Clean Life (27c)**

 - c. Eternal Salvation**

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. What is your normal pattern of exposing your heart and mind to God's Word? List all the times each day / week that you purposefully read, listen to, study, memorize, and meditate upon God's Word. Are you satisfied with that amount? Are you obviously growing as a result? If not, what could you do differently in the coming weeks? What could you say "no" to in order to be able to say "yes" to spending more time in God's Word and then making sure that God's Word is richly dwelling in you?
2. In what specific ways have you "become" a doer of the Word this past week? Give examples of specific truth from the Word of God that you have started to apply habitually.
3. What are some common views people have about "religions"? Why do true followers of Jesus often prefer to use the word "relationship" instead of "religious" when describing themselves? What do the words "religious" / "religion" mean?
4. What kind of religious person is James describing in 1:26? Does this person know that he or she is a religious hypocrite? Why do they believe they are right with God? What would their attitude have been toward what James said in 1:22-25? What is their ultimate problem? See Matthew 7:15-23.
5. Why does James use bridling the tongue as a test for the genuineness of someone's religious response to the Word of God? What does the tongue reveal about what is really going on inside of a person's heart? See Mt. 12:34-37; 15:10-20.
6. In James 1:22-25, the person who hears the word but doesn't act upon it is deluded (deceived as to the reality of their relationship with God). In James 1:26, why is the person who is doing the external religious things deceived? How does a religious person deceive his own heart? How might a person who can't bridle their tongue convince themselves that they are right with God? What does this show about what they are trusting in to get to heaven?
7. In 1:27, is James saying that a person who does these things will go to heaven because they do these things? Is this a comprehensive list? What point is James making? What are the three dimensions of a person's life that James summarizes in his description of the person whose religion is genuine?
8. How are you doing in the three areas that James mentions in 1:26-27? Would the way you habitually live in these areas convince others that you have been transformed by the Word of God? Is it possible that you have been deceived by your religious beliefs? If you are a genuine follower of Jesus, how specifically might you grow in each of these areas? What Scripture could you meditate upon this week to help you grow as a testimony of God's amazing grace in your speech, compassion, and purity?
9. Make a list of people you know that are deceived by their religion into believing they are right with God. Pray for them every day this week and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to share the true Gospel with them and how it has transformed your life.
10. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 1:26-27** and quote it in the morning, at noon, and at night every day this week. If you have done this from the beginning of our study you will complete the first chapter! Ask the LORD to take what you have studied, memorized, and meditated upon, and transform you from the inside out. Pray that **Romans 12:1-2** would become a noticeable and attractive reality in your life.