

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 1:26-27

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-299 JUNE 14, 1998

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Sharing The Word of Truth”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22
But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text vv. 26-27

James 1:26-27

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

a.) ***“Receiving the Word of Truth”*** vv. 19-21

b.) ***“Practicing the Word of Truth”*** vv. 22-25

c.) ***“Sharing the Word of Truth”*** vv. 26-27

The Summation Sentence:

James has been warning us against various ways of becoming deceived as believers. For the third time in this little chapter, James warns us against being religiously deceived, or being deceived by performing a religious duty.

Becoming Deceived by Religion (False Worship) is extremely common among dead and dying churches... (no vitality / stuck on the past / reminiscing what the church once did)

These are warning signs that religious deception is settling in. Religious Deception is the most dangerous form of deception of all because it looks so good. That's why Satan has sought to counterfeit the way to heaven by flooding the religious marketplace with attractive alternatives like

cults that appease the flesh and conscience, deceiving someone in to thinking that being religious is salvation.

False Religion (worship) demands your money!
(we can do money)

False Religion (worship) demands time!
(we can do time)

False Religion (worship) demands submission!
(we can follow)

Because the motive is "Works"-centered religion

Jesus demands Nothing He Invites you to love Him!

From love, activity naturally flows

I'm going to do.... because I love you

Why?

*Because man's hunger for religion is undeniable
Because man is conscious of the fact that he has been created
Because man has an internal, spiritual clock set toward worship*

The worship of one greater than himself!

You will become like the God or gods you worship

Isaiah 44:10

Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?

Isaiah 44:15-17

It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread.

But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it.

¹⁶ Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire."

¹⁷ From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god."

.Deuteronomy 4:28

"And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

The result of false worship is this:

Matthew 13:15

For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

Mark 8:17b-18

because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?
¹⁸ "Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?"

Becoming like the gods you worship

Exodus 32:3-7

"So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.
⁴ And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"
⁵ So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said,
"Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."
⁶ Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.
⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves."

Mars hill and the many statues of false religion and worship
TO THE UNKOWN GOD

Is Our "Doing" a Natural Outflow of a Love Relationship with God?

Or is it a Hard, Mundane, and Difficult Duty that I have to Perform?

²⁶ "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

"Sharing The Word of Truth"

1.) By Speaking and Doing the Same Thing

vv. 26

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

The Key to Understanding this section is

understanding the word "religious" or "religion"

Thinking Himself to be a Worshipper of God
But not getting up and Doing what the God he worship's represents

1a.) By Having the Right Mind

vv. 26a

"If anyone among you **thinks** he is **religious**
and does not **bridle** his tongue

.... "If anyone among you **thinks** he is **religious**

He Thinks He's a Doer - That He's Involved

- * **thinks** grk 1380 dokeo (dok-eh'-o);
to take accounting of yourself. To give yourself a reputation

To Boast about Spiritual Things

He looks around, sees himself among Christians, doing Christian things and so he makes an assumption: I MUST BE A CHRISTIAN

- * **religious** grk 2357 threskos (thrace'-kos);
One who clamors about something, to frighten or to trouble others by it. To be a worshipper.

Verse 26b

and does not **bridle** his tongue

Equestrian Terminology

James uses the words and illustration of a tongue being like a horse

A Horse is a Beautiful and Noble Animal
1,500 lbs. of Muscle and Attitude running at a full gallop
can be exciting or terrifying

- * **bridle** grk 5468 chalinagogo (khal-in-ag-ogue-eh'-o);
to curb a raging river; to hold under control a horse; build a fence around a wilderness

The Tongue can Gallop out of control
and become very dangerous and damaging to all in the arena

There are two things implied here:
#1 the tongue that boasts of religious things
#2 the tongue that is commonly our own

The tongue at home / the tongue under stress / the tongue on the job

That tongue reveals our true hearts

The Mouth is the "Gate" to the Heart

Matthew 12:34b

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Psalms 141:3

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.

Why?

Bad Language

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Telling Lies

Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Without a tongue you couldn't Lie -- You couldn't Cuss

Many people would be constipated with these things

Ecclesiastes 10:12

The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious,
but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up;

The Religious Person would never cuss or lie.
They use their tongue to criticize, to belittle people, to tear down others

John Westley's Story
James, r. Kent Hughes, pg.82

A Warning Against "Megalomania"

Proverbs 27:1-2

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. ² Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

There is a good form of boasting

Psalm 34:2-3

My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 44:8

In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever. Selah

2 Corinthians 10:17-18 NIV

But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ¹⁸ For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

HE TALKS ABOUT DOING THINGS FOR GOD!

I think the Lord wants me to start a home fellowship, I think to be an usher,
I think I'll serve in the Children's ministry... but He never makes the move

This person does do, but wrongly!

Religion here is the word to practice or to do as a habit or routine of life

Remember verses 23&24:

He is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

"Sharing The Word of Truth"

By Having the Right Mind

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

"Sharing The Word of Truth"

By Speaking and Doing the Same Thing...

By Having the Right Mind

1b.) By Having the Right Heart

vv. 26c

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue,
deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless

Three Key Components are Given

The Heart

The deep internal foundation of every human being
What you think, feel, perceive, and know is who you are. It's a + or a -

The Deception

is what undermines what you think, feel, perceive and know

The Useless

is the result of a heart being deceived, undermined, and corrupted

- To inject apathy
- To breed complacency
- Giving birth to a false presentation of what Christianity is

This is what we all struggle with

* **heart** **grk 2588 kardia (kar-dee'-ah);**
the thoughts or feelings. The deep inner person of reality, the real you

WHAT HE CLAIMS TO BE

is exactly what he is not

His “WORSHIP” is different from what he says.

He Says to others (what you do) when in fact you don't do them at all - leads to deceptions

(Self-propaganda)

His thinking is:

I'm agreeable to myself, Even Christ but...

This religion is what we do in the areas of speech, service & separation from the world

* **religion** **grk 2356 threskeia (thrace-ki'-ah);**
from a derivative of 2357; ceremonial observance:

KJV-- religion, worshipping.

* **useless** **grk 3152 mataios (mat'-ah-yos);**
empty, profitless, something created for greatness, but only sit
idle; it's existence has become vain, only good for vanity. (Put on display)

It's like going down to Chino Hills Ford and seeing a brand new Ford mustang convertible. Super v-8, turbo injected 280 hp.... how much for the car? \$25,000.00 is the reply. I'll take it, what a deal, what a steal. I sign all the papers, like all the stickers and get behind the wheel... zooooom, zooooom. It feels great. Then I prepare for the golden moment, in goes the key and I turn it.....

Nothing Happens - Nothing

I look for the candid camera - I can't find it - it's no joke - there's no engine !!!

It's Useless

It looks Great

But it's not Doing What it was Created to Do

What is a Useless Religion (Faith)?

What does it look like and sound like and feel like?

- 1.It talks about doing - but never does
- 2.It's ornamental - but not practical
- 3.It's dead - no new life
- 4.It's bored - not excited about God anymore
- 5.It's lazy - not energetic for spiritual things
- 6.It's blind - has no vision to step out and try
- 7.It's timid - not trusting, fearful, cowardice

IT SEES ITSELF AS A GREAT CHURCH, WORK, OR PERSON

Revelation 3:14-20

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- ¹⁸ "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

“Sharing The Word of Truth”

2.) Is Offering Worship that's Living and Active

vv. 27

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans **and** widows in their trouble, **and** to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

We are always to approach with an Offering
(of course, Jesus was the offering)
By offering, I mean a sacrifice or gift of worship

Lord, I have come with my offering of love and devotion
My offering is the fruit of doing your will

A Question:

Who are you really living for in this life?

2a.) Living Because it's of a Quality that God Desires

vv. 27a

Pure and undefiled religion **before** God and the Father is this

As our model, Jesus honored the Father on earth by doing the Father's will
We are to do the same

* pure grk 2513 katharos (kath-ar-os');
clean, clear, pure. Transparent to view

* **undefiled** grk 283 **amiantos (am-ee'-an-tos);**
to be free of contaminates, an unsoiled garment, pure:

* **before** grk 3844 **para (par-ah');**
in the presence of another. To stand sit or kneel before one greater than yourself

Offering Worship, apart from Obeying God, is a Sin of the Highest Degree

In Genesis 4

God told Cain

your worship has not been accepted, because you are not doing what is right

If you're spiritually lazy
*humble yourself and ask the Lord to **wake** you up*

If you're alcoholic
*humble yourself and ask the Lord to **Remove** it*

If you're having sex outside of marriage
*humble yourself and ask the Lord to **Free** you from its chains*

If you're obsessed with money
*humble yourself and ask God to **change** your heart*

If you're power hungry
*humble yourself and ask God to **soften** your heart*

1 Samuel 15:14-16a, 22a

Saul Returns from Battle, not Having fully Obeyed

"bring nothing back which belongs to the Amelikites"

But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" ¹⁵ And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." ¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet!..... ²² Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

: To **visit orphans** and **widows** in their **trouble**,

In Exact Opposition of Verse 26
THIS IS TRUE RELIGION

Matthew 25:35-36

'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

*By actively being a Christian,
you will fulfill the Lord's desire*

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

#1: to visit orphans

- * **visit** **grk 1980 episkeptomai (ep-ee-skep'-tom-ah-ee);**
to go see, to select; or to choose. To relieve someone by visiting
- * **orphans** **grk 3737 orphanos (or-fan-os');**
bereaved of parents. i.e. parentless: comfortless, fatherless.

#2: and widows in their trouble,

- * **widows** **grk 5503 chera (khay'-rah);**
deficiency; a widow (as lacking a husband)
- * **trouble** **grk 2347 thlipsis (thlip'-sis);**
pressure, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

In Old Testament Times

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

I John 3:17-19

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

Verse 27c

and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

#3: to keep oneself unspotted from the world

* **unspotted** grk 784 **aspilos (as'-pee-los);**
unblemished (physically or morally):

How to DO the Word is This:
By keeping yourself unspotted
By separating yourself from the world
By giving yourself to God

Romans 12:1-2 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

How can I determine that I am really The Lord's Child?

- #1 - Know that the testing of your faith produces patience
- #2 - Know that wisdom is yours for the asking
- #3 - Know that the Lord is stable - so you can be too
- #4 - Know that your financial resources are to be used for God's glory
- #5 - Know that your trials of life have a good purpose
- #6 - Know that God is good
- #7 - Know that you desire to receive the word
- #8 - Know that being hearers and doers is what God really wants
- #9 - Know that sharing your faith is to be seen outwardly by all

