

Making Room for what People are Looking For

David Rhodes February 9, 2024

James 1:22-27

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ 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.²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Believing is Doing

(v.22) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 2:18b

"Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."

Tongues are Tamed

(v.26) "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless."

Luke 6:45

"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of"

- Dirty
- Defaming
- Dishonest

Vulnerable are Valued

(v.27a) "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..."

- YANA (You Are Not Alone)
- Lakes of Litchfield
- Georgetown Detention Center
- Special Friends
- Hearts and Hands & Family Fund
- The Addicted

Character is Cultivated

(v.27b) "...and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)

"sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these."

Galatians 5:22-23

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control."

Exodus 20:6 (NLT)

"I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."

NOTES
