

R and R

5.15.22

James 1: ¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger^[g] does not produce the righteousness^[h] God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

²⁶ If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

I. Receive the word!

²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

A. Be prepared

²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives

B. Be humble/willing/teachable

and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts

C. Be ready!

, for it has the power to save your souls.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

II. Respond to the word!

²⁶ If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

A. "Doing" trumps just simply "listening"

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

B. A few analogies

²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

1 Bad mirrors do not show much.

2 Scripture shows much about ourselves

3 We are blessed when we do and not just listen.

C. The true test of responding to the word

“The character of a man is evidenced primarily by their conduct” John MacArthur
Matt 7:16-17 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.
Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree
produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit.

1. The tongue test

²⁶ If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling
yourself, and your religion is worthless.

2. The compassion test

²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for
orphans and widows in their distress

3. The choice test

and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

III. A few parting shots from MM

NCL!

New believer

Carnal believer

Lost human

I John 2:3-4 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his
commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's
commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.

Close:

“Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll is easy. True Christianity...that's rebellion.”

Alice Cooper