

James 1:19-27
“*Is This For Real?*”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 1:19-27)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “*Is This For Real?*”

~ INTRO ~

Well... AS WE DIVE BACK INTO JAMES...

- Let's remember a few things about this book.

1st – James was writing to Christians...

- And teaching them how to live by faith in uncertain world!

***The same things are needed today during COVID-19.**

WE'RE LIVING IN A POST CHRISTIAN MOMENT...

- Yet... people around the globe...
 - Want Kingdom benefits without the King!

IT'S LIKE THE PERSON WHO EARNS...

- More money on the welfare system...
 - And never wants to develop a skill OR applies effort in life.
 - It's just wrong!!!

SO... JAMES IS TEACHING CHRISTIANS...

- That... Real Faith Produces Evidence.

- Our daily lives reveal who we are!

NOW...

- Let's make sure we understand this...
 - “Growth takes times”
 - So he's not teaching us about perfection.
 - But he's showing us the way Jesus wants us to go!

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GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR US...

- To collect a bunch of factual knowledge...
 - He’s looking for us to apply by faith...
 - The knowledge we have of Him already.

IDEA #1 – AM I LISTENING?: READ (vv.19-21)

CHURCH... THIS IS AN INSTRUCTIONAL CONVERSATION...

- Of “How To” & not a list of “Should Do’s”

(v.19) NLT

- 1) *Quick to listen* = Ready to follow & respond to Gods will.
- 2) *Slow to speak* = Cautious & not reckless.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN FRUSTRATED...

- And walked around all day biting people’s heads off!?!)

- 3) *Slow to get angry* = Think before we act.

- Leap before we look (NOT)
- Ready – fire - aim (NO)

CONSIDER THIS:

WHEN WE’RE GOVERNED BY GOD...

- There’s evidence in our lives:

WATCH...

- a) I submit to His word (Rom. 6:22) NLT
 - **Slave* = Wholly given over to God’s agenda!
 - I’m “All-In”
- b) My speech is changed (Eph. 4:29) NLT
- c) Bad cravings are curbed (Gal. 5:16) NLT

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When I’m guided by God’s Spirit:

- Look = I study the Bible for myself (Acts 17:11) Berean’s
- Listen = I learn to hear God’s voice in prayer (1 Kings 19:13) Elijah
- Lean = I brace myself on God’s promises (Isa. 26:3) NLT...
 - So I’m not shaken in the storms of life!

NOW... ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE...

- These are some of the Christian qualities we’re to have:
 - a) Mental & moral qualities (Gal. 5:22-23) NLT
 - b) Generous attitudes (Acts 2:44-45) NLT
 - c) Praising the Lord (Heb. 13:15) NKJV & NLT
 - d) Sharing with others, what God has done for us (Rom. 1:16) NLT

JAMES IS TEACHING...

- Us what to put into practice!

IDEA #2 – EVIDENCE REQUIRED: (vv.22-27)

(v.22) NLT - READ ONLY

NEWS FLASH HERE!!!

- You can’t be a Christian unless you follow Jesus.

WAIT A MINUTE PASTOR MAN...

- The Bible says if *I just believe...*
 - Exactly!!! *If WE just believe*

(Rom. 10:9) NKJV

- The idea is your making a pledge that Jesus is the ruler of your life!
 - And this is exactly what John is teaching people to understand.

* IN 1991... I ATTENDED A CHURCH...

- Where I heard the gospel taught for the first time.
 - I responded, BUT I never changed direction in my life.
 - In fact, what I was doing ONLY got worse.

IT WASN’T UNTIL I GAVE UP...

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- (Nearly 2-years later) when I surrendered & changed directions.
 - I started following Jesus!

RIGHT NOW...

- During the shut-down of our society...
 - There have been a ton of people all across our nation...
 - Flocking to churches looking for answers.
- Thousands of people have come to a professed faith in Jesus.
 - THIS IS AWESOME!!!

NOW... THE NEXT STEP...

- Is teaching people what it looks like to follow Jesus.
 - It's surrendering MY Aim...
 - For His fame!
 - My WILL for His deal.

I WAS GOING THIS WAY...

- And now I'm going that way!

THERE'S NO SALVATION...

- Without repentance.

AND THE PROMISES IN THE BIBLE...

- Only apply to the followers of Jesus!

[*The Chosen” app...](#)

- Is an awesome example of following Jesus in video fashion.

[READ \(vv.23-25\) NLT](#)

A WARNING AGAINST SELF-DECEPTION...

- Looking into a mirror can be illustrated like this:

- 1) A person goes to church...
- 2) The person hears the message...
- 3) But then goes away unchanged!

- [\(2 Cor. 13:5\) NLT](#)

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THE TEST PAUL IS MENTIONING...

- Is listening and obeying Jesus!

FINALLY...

- (vv.25-27) NLT

TRANSFORMATION TAKES TIME...

- But it will always be seen thru the actions of a life.

RELIGIOUS...

- External observances... that don't change the heart!

AUTHENTIC SALVATION...

- Is demonstrated thru a changed heart...
 - Which changes the way a person talks / thinks / & lives.
- And serving others above self CAN be a key indicator!

~ IN CLOSING ~

PERHAPS YOU'VE JOINED US ONLINE TODAY...

- For the first time...
 - Or maybe you've been here for a while!?!

EITHER WAY...

- If you would like to become a Christian...
 - And have your sins forgiven...
- Would you respond on your screen OR in the chat box...
 - So we can talk to you today?

~ LET'S PRAY ~