

## **James 1:23-27**

### *Doing The Word*

September 5, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Matthew 7:24-27** - "Therefore everyone then who hears these words of Mine and *does* them will be like a *wise* man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the floods came, the winds blew and beat on that house, but it didn't fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and *doesn't* do them will be like a *foolish* man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the floods came, the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was its fall."

**James 1:23-25** - If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he's like a man observing his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and isn't a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

**Mark 6:20** - Herod feared John and protected him, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man. When he heard John's words, he was greatly disturbed; yet he listened to him gladly.

**v. 1:23** - If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he's like a man observing his natural face in a mirror.

### **1. Intently look into the Word.**

**v.1:23 (NIV)** - Anyone who listens to the word but doesn't do what it says is like someone who *looks* at his face in a mirror and, <sup>24</sup> after *looking* at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever *looks intently* ...

**Proverbs 2:4-5** - If you seek it like *silver* and search it out like *hidden treasure*, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

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## **2. Habitually look into God's Word**

**v. 1:25** - But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and *continues* in it, isn't a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

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## **3. Obediently look into God's Word.**

**John 13:17** - "If you know these things, blessed are you if you *do them*."

**John 8:34** - "Whoever sins is a *slave* to sin."

**v.1:26** - If anyone among you thinks he's religious, and doesn't bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

**v. 1:27** - 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.

## **Three Marks of Genuine (Pure) Christianity**

### **1. A Controlled Tongue**

**v. 1:26** - Anyone among you thinks he's religious, and doesn't bridle his tongue... this one's religion is useless.

- Is it **TRUE**?
- Is it **HELPFUL**?
- Is it **INSPIRATIONAL**?

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- Is it **NECESSARY**?
- Is it **KIND**?

**Ephesians 4:29** - Don't let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

### **2. A Compassionate Heart**

<sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble.

**Luke 14:12-14** - "When you host a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends or brothers or relatives or rich neighbors. Otherwise, they may invite you in return, and you'll be repaid. But when you host a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, and you'll be blessed, since they can't repay you."

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### **3. A Clean Life**

<sup>27</sup> 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.

**Prov. 4:23** - Above all else, guard your *heart*, for everything you *do* flows from it.

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**v. 14** - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak as to reasonable people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, *we who are many are one body*, for we all partake of the one bread.