

James 1:22-25

Endure: Be Word-Doers, Not Just Bible-Hearers

Introduction: Review – Actions Speak Louder than Words

1. This Section is Centered on God's Word
 - a. New Birth created by Means of the Word (v 18)
 - b. Sanctified Life Molded and Saved through Meek Reception of the Word (v 21)
 - c. Our text today: BE Doers of the Word

Main Point: Christians are Blessed by hearing the Word, doing the Word, meditating on the Word, and abiding in the Word. They are not like the self-deceived religious who disregard the Word after they have heard it.

2. Self-Deception is a Focus in this Section
 - a. Do not be deceived... (v 16)
 - b. True Religion verses False Next Week (v 26)
 - c. God does not want us deceived
 - d. Self-Deception is dangerous – We need Wisdom
 - e. Is your true position before God in Christ saving in nature or are you misleading yourself?

The Christian Hears the Word and Does the Word (v 22a)

1. We are born again and sanctified in the listening of God's Word – but this is NOT enough for our souls
2. It is NOT sufficient merely to hear the Word alone
3. Conjunction *BUT* compares last week with this week
 - a. Be quick to listen – be agreeable to it, delight in it
 - b. Meekly Receive the Word! *BUT be Word-Doers*
4. The Word-Doer
 - a. Not simply talking about deeds, rather BEING
 - b. By God Working in YOU, Become a Word-Doer
 - c. Bible knowledge is essential, but NOT sufficient for your sanctification
 - d. Theology & Doctrine are not Theoretical Abstract Thought, but draws out various implications for life
 - e. Word-Doing – is ongoing throughout life; continual
 - f. Applying the Biblical Ethic is Essential (Jn 14:15)
5. Ways the Bible Tells Us to be a Word-Doer:
 - a. Heart & Mind: Motivations, Thoughts, Affections, & Attitudes - Gal 1:10; Phl 2:5, 4:8-9; 1 Tm 6:17
 - b. Speech and Conduct – Eph 4:29; Rom 6:13

- c. The Word dictates how Christians think, feel, & behave
 - d. The Whole BEING is involved – Identity as Word-Doer
 - e. This effects how you love God and neighbor
 - f. This effects every area of life (family, church, etc)
6. Word-Doer Means One Way of being a Disciple of Christ
 - a. You cannot read the Word with personal opinion – How you “feel” about a verse is not what matters...
 - b. What matters is what God says to believe and do

The Self-Deceived Religious Only Hear the Word (v 22b-24)

1. Hearing the Word Only, even agreeing with it, without Putting it into Practice is Self-Deception
 - a. Equating KNOWING with BEING = Self-Deceived
 - b. Salvation is not by Works, but Works accompanies Salvation – Many will be surprised (Mt 7:21-23)
 - c. True Word-Hearers become True Word-Doers (Lk 6:46-49, 1 Jn 2:3)
2. James' Startling Illustration: *The Man in the Mirror*
 - a. He Looks Intently and Walks Away without making the appropriate adjustments (Immediately forgets)
 - b. Looking into the Word like this you never find Jesus nor do the Father's Will (Jn 5:39-40)
 - c. He deceives Himself thinking He is a Christian

The Blessed Persevere in Hearing/Doing the Word (v 25)

1. James' Solid & Sound Illustration: The Biblical Mirror
 - a. Christians Use the Bible as a Mirror
 - i. The Warning of Verses 23-24 is God's Grace to provoke you to hear and obey His Will
 - ii. Hearing this way Liberates believers to live life in the fullness of joy under Christ's Commands
 - iii. The Bible assists Christians to commune with God and understand ourselves in light of the Gospel (Jn 8:31-32)
 - b. Law of Liberty: Freedom, NOT drudgery (1 Jn 5:3)
 - i. Not a meritorious ladder to God, but a Spirit empowered response to redemption in Christ
 - c. Perseverance is Needed – trials, tests, persecutions
 - d. Blessing Awaits the One Who Does and Endures (Lk 11:28) – Blessedly Compensated

Pastoral Concern: Discouragement about how far you have to go to be a Word-Doer; Suggestion – pick 1 Area to work on!