

“Doers of the Word”

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² 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. James 1:19-27

Introduction:

James is the younger brother of Jesus. While he only mentions Jesus twice, it is clear that James was listening and learning from Jesus.

In fact, much of the book of James can be connected to Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

Series Theme Verse: *“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”* James 2:26

Faith: Trusting and obeying God.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Works: A life of loving God and loving others.

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Matthew 22:37-39

James is concerned for the believers to avoid deception.

We can be deceived about our...

1. Identity.

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. vs. 16-18

2. Activity.

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

3. Words.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 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. v. 26-27

God’s Word must be...

1. Heard Carefully.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. v. 19-20

2. Accepted Humbly.

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. v. 21

3. Practiced Faithfully.

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

He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” Luke 11:28

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Faith: _____ and _____ God.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Works: A life of _____ God and _____ others.

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James is concerned for the believers to avoid _____.

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1. _____.

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1. _____ **Carefully.**

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2. _____ **Humbly.**

*Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept** the word planted in you, which can save you.* v. 21

3. _____ **Faithfully.**

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He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” Luke 11:28