

Week 3 – James 1:19-27 Hearing and Doing the Word

1. Hearers of the Word (1:19-21)

Reading through the book of James, it is easy to think that he is moralistic in his understanding of what it means to be a Christian. In other words, one can have the impression that he thinks a right relationship with God is all about doing this or doing that. That is a wrong impression. With all his moral instruction and ethical exhortation, James is not telling a person how to become a Christian.

- How do you know that's the case?
- To whom does James address the moral instruction that begins in 1:19?
- If James is speaking to “beloved brothers” beginning in 1:19, and if doing is not what makes a person a Christian, what then is it that makes a person a Christian?
- In what verse does he talk about “putting away” evil because of the new birth?
- How would slowness to hear, quickness to anger hinder the word from taking root in a person's heart?

2. Doers of the Word (1:22-25)

Verse 22 is perhaps the best candidate for a “topic sentence” of James' letter. Looking through the book of James, what kinds of issues do you see James addressing? Explain how each is a matter of putting God's word into practice.

- What metaphor does James use to describe a person who only hears the word but does not do it?
- What is meant by the “perfect law”
- If James is speaking to “beloved brothers” beginning in 1:19, and if doing is not what makes a person a Christian, what then is it that makes a person a Christian?

3. True, Practical Religion (1:26-27)

- James gives 3 examples in these verses of what it means to do the Word. What are they?