

Looking Into the Mirror James 1:22-25

I. The Word of God Saves Souls

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls, James 1:21

A. It is the Word of God

1 Peter 1:23 You are born imperishable seed, through word of God

Eph 1:13 you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation

Heb 4:12 word of God living and powerful, discerner of thoughts

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, hearing by word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is God breathed

B. It says more about me than about anything else

It reveals man's nature

Loved by God, yet rebellious, Rom. 3:23, Eph 2:1, Jn 3:16-17

It tells story of Jesus, Jn 5:39 you know Scripture speaks me

It tells me what I must do

Rom. 1:20, Ps 19:1.

Plan of Salvation

Rom 12:1-2

II. The Word of God is Like a Mirror

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was, James 1:23-24

The admirer

1 Cor. 3:18-20 worldly wisdom, eloquence, look for foolishness God

The sentimentalist

Ezekiel 33:30-33 They desire to hear, but do not do, a lovely song

The Comparer (this applies to others, not me)

1 Jn 1:5-10 If we say we have no sin, we deceive, walk in light as he

James 1:23-24

The Ignorer

Acts 7 Stephen's listeners, Jeremiah 36:23 penknife Jehoiakim

III. We Must Be Hearers and Doers

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves....But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does, James 1:22, 25

Jesus says we need to "do."

Matthew 7:24-27 Wise and foolish builder

Luke 6:46 Why call me Lord but not do what I say?

Luke 11:27-28 Blessed is your mom, no blessed is the obeyer

John 13 example of service, v. 17 blessed are you who do

Look intently (Same word used in John 20:5)

Perceive it, receptively work on it

Pure Religion

James 1:26-27

Introduction: Religion is an outward expression of our inward devotion

I. Useless Religion, v. 26

If you can't control your tongue, your religion is useless
What we say is a reflection of our heart

II. Pure Religion, v. 27

A. Caring for orphans and widows
Widows cared for by God: Ruth,
People disadvantaged today

B. Stay unspotted from the world

C. In other words, Matthew 22:36-40

Conclusion: A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing.