



Hearing and Doing the Word

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Learn the significance of not standing simply on our faith, but recognizing that a faithful person will also be known by the faithful works that flow out of his/her faith!

Read James 1:19 – 1:21 – Put away Filthiness and Rampant Wickedness!

- James begins to instruct the recipients of his letter on some challenging behavioral themes that most people can see a struggle with applying – being quick to hear! – being slow to speak! – being slow to anger! – our flesh longs to be the one heard and for many, we can be very quick to anger.
- While very challenging, if we learn to apply these exhortations, it will be very advantageous!
- When we are quick to listen, we are able to understand a person or situation, which in turn can also help us with avoiding being quick to anger.
- James goes on to tell the readers to put away filthiness and rampant wickedness and to receive the implanted word, which is able to save our souls!

Read James 1:22 – 1:25 – Be Doers of the Word – Not Hearers Only!

- It is a great privilege to read, study and hear the Word of God taught – however James instructs us to not be limited to just hearing the Word but also doing the Word! Live out the Fruit of the Spirit – live out the Gospel through the Great Commission and the fellowship of Believers!
- If we do not “do” the Word – we are like a man that is caught up in his own reflection in the mirror – we forget what we were like and how we were delivered from sin!
- When we “look into the Perfect Law” – we are confronted with the sinful, disgraceful and impure creature that we were, before the cleansing and atoning work of the Gospel!
- This confrontation of the Law that reflects the image of the old man; that was purified and regenerated; energizes the believer to be a Doer of the Word!

Read James 1:26 – 1:27 – Pure and undefiled Religion!

- An interesting perspective of religion is now set forth by James – if a person considers himself to be one who is religious but does not bear the fruit of one who follows the faith, his religion is worthless! James is telling us that just because you claim to follow the faith – if the fruit of your life does not bear evidence of the faith – your claim is invalid.
- James brings emphasis to producing fruit of our faith as “religion that is pure and undefiled before God” – he uses the ministry to orphans and widows as an example, as well as the bold and confrontational instruction that we are to keep ourselves “unstained from the world”!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: How can you personally relate to the examples that James gives us to avoid? Have you struggled with being slow to listen and quick to speak? How about being quick to anger? Share personal examples and what you have learned from those experiences.

- It is important to recognize that no one is exempt from these pitfalls!
- Most everyone is passionate about getting their thoughts out – even at the cost of it not being needed, or being poorly timed.
- We must ask God to help us learn and grow from our failures in these realms, so we can become more effective ministers of reconciliation.
- Most importantly, we have to always recognize the Authority and Power of Scripture in our lives!

Question 2: Do you understand that when James teaches to be “Doers of the Word” and not to be just hearers of the Word, that he is not condoning or preaching a “Works-Based Gospel”?

- A Works-Based Gospel builds a premise that our works are the reason for our salvation – not the Grace and Mercy of God through the imputed Righteousness of Jesus Christ!
- What James is emphasizing is that one who hears the Word and the Word becomes a seed that is planted into good soil – it produces hundredfold fruit!
- There were many who heard Christ, not many followed – there is a huge difference between hearing and doing as well – hearers do not equate to followers!
- Our question to ourselves daily is: Have I denied myself, picked up my cross and am I following Christ in this world? Is there obvious and verifiable fruit in my life? Am I making disciples?

Question 3: Do you understand the teaching about a Pure and undefiled Religion?

- Simply – if we just preach about the religion/faith but do not live it – it isn’t pure and undefiled!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data