

---

---

Pastor Snavely

October 5, 2014 A.M.

*EVALUATING OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD*

*James 1:22-27*

James presents a challenge to those among the brethren who emphasize outward religious service – both the professing and possessing Christian. Satan sows tares among the wheat and mixes the sheep with the goats so that there are counterfeits among the real. The Pharisees were scrupulous in observing religious rites and ceremonies such as praying, fasting, tithing, and worshiping in the temple; but the Pharisee's religion was a vain delusion. (*James Your Brother*, Strauss)

Today, if we carry our Bible and are somewhat familiar with it, if we attend church regularly, sing the hymns, apparently listen, and especially if we give, we can easily deceive ourselves into thinking we are properly and adequately religious. Our doing can produce a deadly religious delusion! (*James: Faith That Works*, Hughes)

I. The Test of Submissive Character vv. 22-25

Do we obey the Word of God?

A. The Casual Glance vv. 22-24

B. The Careful Gaze v. 22-25

“looketh” – bend over to see better

“continueth” – not hit-or-miss, but obediently practices / lives out what is read

Acts 1:14; 2:42, 46; 13:43; 14:22; 26:22

II. The Test of Self-Control v. 26

Do we control our own tongue?

“vain” – empty, futile, worthless

James 1:19, 26; 3:2, 8; 4:11

Psalm 39:1; 141:3; Matthew 12:34-35

III. The Test of Spiritual Compassion v. 27a

Do we help those in need or distress?

“visit” – Not a social call; to care for and look after

“affliction” – Pressure; calamity

Matthew 25:30-40; Proverbs 19:17

IV. The Test of Social Corruption v. 27b

Do we avoid the attraction of the world?

“world” – Those in rebellion against God

Ephesians 5:25-27; II Peter 3:13-14

The world wants to defile the Christian.

- Friendship with the world  
James 4:4 / Genesis 13:12
- Love for the world  
I John 2:15-17 / Genesis 14:12
- Conformed to the world  
Romans 12:1-2 / Genesis 19:1
- Destroyed with the world  
I Corinthians 3:15 / Genesis 19:15-17, 29

Pure religion does not demonstrate itself only on religious holidays or Sundays but should be evident every day of the week. Pure religion means having a submissive character in obeying the Word of God, practicing self-control, displaying spiritual compassion, and guarding against social corruption.

---

---