

Bible Study for March 1st and 3rd

In James 1:19-27 tells us how we should respond to the Word of God. There are three elements involved in responding to the Word of God correctly:

1. **Serious Preparation is Required, James 1:19-21.**

Hearing the Word of God requires preparation. It is not something that can be done flippantly or to be taken lightly. Serious preparation is required! What kind of preparations do we need to make? We need to prepare to listen. Be quick to hear and slow to speak! The next phrase James uses for our preparation for hearing the Word of God: slow to anger. As you prepare to listen to the Word of God, decide in advance that you won't become angry when your toes are stepped on. The Word of God will step on your toes. It steps on my toes every week. There is not only a preparation to hear, there is also a preparation of moral purity (v. 21). We are to "put away all filthiness" and "rampant wickedness." The word "wickedness" refers to any sort of moral defilement or impurity. It is closely related to a term used of ear-wax which impairs hearing. Together these two terms tell us to put aside by confession and repentance any moral impurity or sin in our lives that will impair our hearing like ear-wax when we are preparing to hear the Word of God.

2. **Studious Examination is Encouraged, James 1:22-25.**

There is a tremendous contrast here between the one who only hears and the one who hears and obeys. It is not between hearers and doers, but between hearers who don't obey and hearers who do obey. The contrast is with a man who looks into the mirror on the table, but does not walk away from it, he continues to look intently into the Word. He meditates on it and obediently puts it into practice. James calls it the "perfect law" which David uses as a synonym for the Word of God in Psalm 19:7.

3. **Sincere Religion is Produced, James 1:26-27.**

James says it this way: "Pure religion is produced." Real Christianity is the result when the Word of God is heard with the right attitude and obeyed. What is "Pure Religion"?

1. Bridles your tongue, v. 26.
2. Serves others, v. 27a (orphans and widows).
3. Produces holiness, v. 27b.

On April 14, 1912, on the maiden voyage of the Titanic, a message was received from another ship warning of icebergs in area. It was ignored. The message never reached the captain and as a result over 1,500 lives were lost. Information without action can result in destruction.

This exactly what James is saying. If we fail to act on the information we are provided in the Word of God, then we are deceiving ourselves (vv. 22, 26) and are not evidencing genuine saving faith.

If you haven't already, dig into a book of the Bible this week and begin studying!

Weekly Bible studies meet each Tuesday (*except following a holiday*) and Thursday in Capitol Annex Room 436 from 11:30 am till noon. Same study both days to allow flexibility for committee schedules.