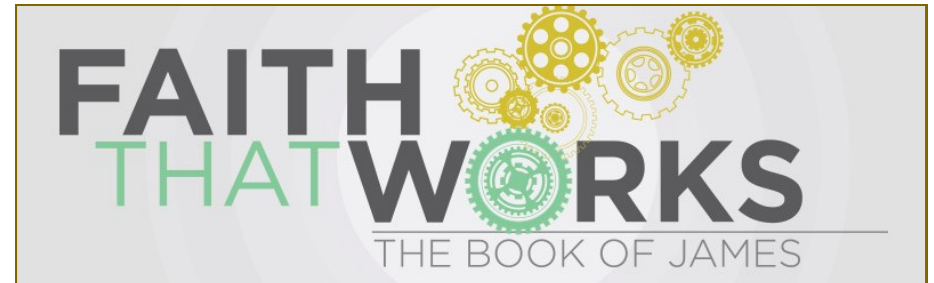


Reflection Questions: How is my religion? Is it pure or worthless? How do I know? Do I *visit* those in need? Is it my heart's desire to meet the needs of others, even those I don't get along with? Do I love and live for *the world* or for those in *distress*?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



#10 Acceptable Religion (1:26-27)

Sermon
Notes

May 5, 2019

1. Your Conversation — Control Your Tongue

Quotes to Ponder

The true embodiment of the inward principles of religion is to visit the fatherless & widows in their affliction, & to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Charity and purity are the two great garments of Christianity.

Charles Spurgeon

A true test of a man's religion is not his ability to speak, but rather his ability to bridle his tongue.

Lehman Strauss

James does not define generally what religion is, but reminds us that religion without the things he mentions is nothing.

John Calvin

The meeting of needs is not peripheral, nor optional, but central and obligatory to your faith.

Craig L. Blomberg

If the tongue is not controlled by God, it is a sure indicator that the heart is not, either.

John MacArthur

Being opinionate or being able to dominate conversations is never a mark of grace, whereas the ability to say nothing often is.

Sinclair B. Ferguson

God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue.

Thomas Watson

2. Your Compassion — Care for the Needy

3. Your Character — An Uncontaminated Life

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you?
Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How does *James 1:26-27* describe the visible evidence of receiving *the word implanted (James 1:21)* in one's life?

3. What is the meaning of *religious/religion* in *James 1:26-27*?

4. What is the difference between *pure and undefiled religion* and *worthless religion (James 1:26-27)*?

5. According to James, what proves that the one who professes to be *religious*, in reality, is not (*James 1:26*)?

What do *Proverbs 10:19* and *29:20* tell us?

6. What are the characteristics of *pure and undefiled religion* in *James 1:26-27*? Are these the only characteristics we're to have?

7. Why does James single out these two groups we're to *visit* in *James 1:27*?

8. What is God's attitude toward these two groups of people in *distress*?
Exodus 22:22 — *Psalm 68:5* —

Exodus 27:19 —

Isaiah 1:17 —

Deuteronomy 10:18 —

Matthew 25:34-40 —

9. What does it mean to *visit orphans and widows (James 1:27)*?
Matthew 25:35-36 — *Luke 7:16* —

Luke 1:68, 78 —

Acts 15:14 —

10. What is James referring to in *James 1:27* when he writes, *the world* (cf. *James 4:4*)?

11. How do we keep ourselves *unstained by the world (James 1:27)*?
Psalm 24:4 — *Colossians 2:8* —

Matthew 12:35-37 —

Titus 2:12 —

John 17:15-17 —

1 John 2:15-16 —

Romans 12:2 —

12. How does *James 1:19* fit together with *James 1:26-27*?