

James 1:19-27  
Become a Good Hearer & Doer of God's Word

**Introduction:** The ability to respond rightly to trials and resist temptation in a Godward way is found in our habitual reaction to God's Word. (J. Ron Blue)

**1) I need to prepare appropriately to listen well to God's Word—1:19-21**

- Two commands: let every person be, receive
- a) <sup>19</sup> **Know** (understand) **this** (some MSS "so then"), *my beloved brothers*:
  - i) This is something important to grasp and embrace.
- b) **What must I do in preparation to listen?—1:19** let every person be ...
  - This applies to sermons, court verdicts, FB posts, and headline news.
  - i) Correct my hesitant obedience: *quick* [tacu,j] (prompt) *to hear* [avkou,w],  
(1) Why am I reluctant or sluggish to obey?
  - ii) Correct my sinful speech: *slow* [bradu,j] *to speak* [lale,w], (Prov. 10:19)  
(1) Not every sermon needs to lead to controversy.
  - iii) Correct my sinful mood: *slow* [bradu,j] *to anger* [ovrgh,]; (Prov. 16:32)  
(1) Settled anger predisposes me to reject what I hear.
- c) **Why are these three things important?—1:20**
  - i) <sup>20</sup> *for the anger* [ovrgh,] *of man does not produce* [evrga,zomai] *the righteousness* [dikaiosuh] *of God*.
  - ii) A short-tempered response to the teaching of God's Word is sinful. We might be tempted or encouraged by our culture to feel some satisfaction in getting anger. It is a lie.
- d) **How can we respond rightly to God's Word?—1:21** <sup>21</sup> *Therefore*
  - i) Pursue holiness **negatively**: (having) *put away* [aor. mid. ptc avpoti,qhmi]  
(1) Avoid getting spiritually dirty: *all filthiness* [ruparia]  
(a) "Don't get your clean clothes dirty!" mothers tell their children.  
(2) Avoid spiritually harmful residue: *and rampant wickedness* [perissei,a kaki,a]
  - ii) Pursue holiness **positively**:  
(1) Embrace the Word with selfless courtesy toward others: *and* **receive** [de,comai] *with meekness* [prau,thj] *the implanted* [e;mfutoj] *word*,  
(a) *which is able to save* [sw,zw] *your souls* [yuch,]. (rescue your life)

**2) I need to determine to be actively obedient to what I hear—1:22-25**

- a) What?—1:22
  - i) Positively: <sup>22</sup> *But* **be** (become) **doers** [poihtj,j] *of the word*,
  - ii) Negatively: *and not hearers* [avkroath,j] *only*,  
(1) *deceiving* [paralogi,zomai] (play a trick on) *yourselves*.
- b) Why?—1:23-25
  - i) Potential situation of **disobedience of unbelief**—1:23-24 <sup>23</sup> *For if* [3<sup>rd</sup> class, hypothetical] *anyone is a hearer* [avkroath,j] *of the word and not a doer* [poihtj,j],

- (1) Distortion: *he is like a man who looks intently [katanoe,w] at his natural face in a mirror.*
    - (a) We do this to get an accurate self-appraisal and to identify areas that need attention. (FSB)
    - (b) Simply looking in the mirror is not the right goal.
  - (2) Inattentiveness: <sup>24</sup> *For he looks [katanoe,w] at himself and goes away and at once forgets (willful disregard, not intellectual) what he was like.*
  - (3) The Word does not weigh heavy on him/her.
- ii) Potential situation of **obedience of belief**—1:25 <sup>25</sup> *But ...*
- (1) Submission: *the one who looks into [paraku,ptw] the perfect law (from a perfect God), the law of liberty,*
    - (a) God's Word possesses God's authority.
  - (2) Persistence: *and perseveres [parame,nw],*
    - (a) *being no hearer [avkroath,j] who forgets*
    - (b) *but a doer [poiht,h,j] who acts,*
  - (3) Beatitude: *he will be blessed in his doing.*

### 3) I need to embrace the type of religion that pleases God—1:26-27

- Because God knows everything and judges everything.
- a) Negative: a religion that is **displeasing** to God—1:26
- i) The possibility of a wrong assumption: <sup>26</sup> *If [1<sup>st</sup> class; assume, imagine] anyone thinks/assumes [pres. act. ind. doke,w] he is religious [pres. act. inf. qrh/skoj]*
    - (1) Sinful habits of speech: *and does not bridle [pres. act. ptc. calinagwge,w] his tongue*
    - (2) *but deceives [pres. act. ptc. avpata,w] his heart,*
  - ii) The verdict: *this person's religion [qrhskai,a] is worthless [ma,taioj].*
- b) Positive: a religion that is **pleasing** to God—1:27
- i) The verdict: <sup>27</sup> *Religion [qrhskai,a] that is pure [kaqaro,j] and undefiled [avmi,antoj] before [para,] God the Father is this:*
  - ii) The explanation:
    - These are not the only things that please God.
    - (1) Selfless compassion for the vulnerable: *to visit [pres. mid. inf. evpiske,ptomai] orphans [ovrfano,j] and widows [ch,ra] in their affliction [qli,yij],*
    - (2) Purity of separation: *and to keep [pres. act. inf. thre,w] oneself unstained [a;spiloj] from [avpo,] the world [ko,smoj] (its worldview, values, etc.).*

### 4) Things I need to remember:

- a) God, grant me the grace to authentically prepare to listen submissively to Your Word, the grace to actively obey it, and the grace to embrace a lifestyle that is pleasing to You. Amen.

