

I. Vs. 21. Command #1: Receive The Word

- **“Putting aside”** (Participle) **HOW** we receive the word.
- **“Putting aside filthiness and wickedness in humility”**
 - **Humility**- literal translation **“gentleness”**
- Not necessarily a singular action but by becoming those who put aside filthiness and wickedness
- This should become integral to **WHO** we are.
- The word is **“Implanted”**
 - **Ephesians 1:13** *“In Him, you also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”*
 - **Deut. 30:9-14**
- The very same word implanted, the same word which is able to save your souls.

II. Vs. 22-25 Command #2: Prove Yourself Doers and Not Just Hearers

- This second command is to prove by doing.
- **Present tense** ongoing action
- Intentional decisions to do what the word says and not just read it or hear it without impact
- How can someone be a “hearer” but not a “doer”?
 - By deluding/deceiving themselves.
- James gives great illustration of someone who deceives himself.

Vs. 23-24 Looking in mirror and forgetting the image

What Does Deceiving Look Like:

1. We Forget Our Need for A Savior

Matthew 5:3-12

Romans 7 *“O wretched man that I am? Who will set me free from this body of sin?
Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ...”*

2. We Forget What Our Savior Has Done For Us.

Matthew 18:21-33

James Contrasts Those Who Deceive Themselves w/ What It Looks Like to Be A True Doer

Vs. 25. BUT, the person who truly becomes a doer of the word is blessed.

- James gives 2 descriptors of the one who is blessed in what he does.
- 1. One who looks **intently** at God’s perfect law which gives freedom from sin.
(This is different word than used above in looking in mirror)
(This implies very careful inspection to investigate with scrutiny)
- 2. One who **abides** by God’s perfect law
(One who abides is not a forgetful hearer, but an effectual doer)

III. Vs. 26-27 Command #3: Understand What Pure & undefiled Religion Is

- **Vs. 26** harkens back to **Vs. 24** and **Vs. 20**
- If a man thinks himself to be religious, but can’t control his tongue or his words, he deceives his own heart.
- If I think that I’m a devout follower of Jesus. And I’m convinced that I’m living as a great ambassador for the Kingdom. And I believe I’m perfectly aligned with the will of God in my life but I’m reckless with my speech, my email messages, my text messages, my Insta posts, my FaceBook chats, my Tik Toks, my blogs, my vlogs, and even how I spend my time..... then I’m not as religious as I think I am.

- **Personification of “Heart”:** *“He deceives his own heart....”*

Vs. 27 This is True Religion: Care for the Widows & Orphans

- Speculation: Probably a problem looking down on widows & orphans for their position in society
Probably saying some pretty nasty things & behaving badly toward the less fortunate
Chapter 2 James will rebuke them for showing partiality & favoritism.
I believe its possible that James was beginning his thoughts on partiality here.

Vs. 26,27 Also Foreshadow James’ Discussions in Chapters 3, 4 & 5

- Chapter 3 will be about bridling the tongue
- Chapter 4 will be about quarrels resulting from desires of the flesh
- Chapter 5 will be about the rich abusing the poor
- (All of these point to the stains of worldly living)

Descriptive Vocabulary James Uses at Beginning and End of Vs 27?

- “Pure Undefined”** = True Religion in God’s sight
- “Stained”** = the world.

Psalm 19:7-14. Comparison of David’s Words

- Vs. 7** David says God’s law is perfect, restoring the soul
James said it has the power to save
- Vs. 8-9** David says God’s law causes the heart to rejoice, its pure, its clean, and righteous
James said do not deceive your heart by ignoring God’s law, and obeying God’s law leads to our undefiled religion in God’s sight.
- Vs. 11** David says In keeping God’s law there is great reward
James says the one who hears God’s word and becomes a doer is blessed.
- Vs. 13-14** David asks the Lord to keep him from presumptions sins. Lord, let me not be so overly confident that I behave arrogantly and no longer remember my true nature part from You
James says don’t forget that image in the mirror that reveals what you really look like, that you have a need for a savior, and that your are utterly deprived and dead in your sins apart from Jesus.