

Salem BC

5.26.21

“A Study in James”

Text: James 1:26-27

“²⁶ People who think they are religious but say things they should not say are just fooling themselves. Their “religion” is worth nothing. ²⁷ Religion that God accepts as pure and without fault is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world’s evil influence.”

1. What is religion? According to Webster’s dictionary, it is devotion, faithfulness, conscientiousness, an awareness or conviction of the existence of a supreme being, which arouses reverence, love, gratitude, the will to obey and serve.
2. Religion reaches “___” toward God. Many people gravitate toward this approach to faith, because it puts them in _____.
3. True Christianity is not a religion; rather, it is having a right relationship with _____ by receiving Jesus.
4. Christianity is God reaching “_____” to man. Christianity claims that humans have NOT found God but that God has found them.
5. To practice genuine Christianity is to respond to what God has done for you. The Christian life is a “_____” relationship with God, not doing a bunch of “religious stuff”.
6. An individual who possesses a genuine, true Christian faith in God will have the power given by the Holy Spirit to _____ one’s tongue.

Psalm 34:13 states: “Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.”

Proverbs 21:23 states: “He who guards his mouth and his tongue keep himself from calamity.”

Proverbs 13:3 states: “He who guards his lips, guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.”

Now, let's move to **the latter portion of today's teaching:** ²⁷ Religion that God accepts as pure and without fault is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence.”

7. In the 1st century, orphans and widows had very little means of economic _____. Unless a family member was willing to care for them, they were reduced to begging, selling themselves as slaves, or starving.
8. When we give with NO hope of receiving in _____, we show what it truly means to _____ other people.
9. We are never more like God than when we _____. "God so loved the world, that he gave ..."

Then, the last portion of the **verse 27 says:** “...keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence.”

10. To keep ourselves “free from the world's evil influence”, or “being _____ by the world,” we need to commit ourselves to _____ ethical and moral system, NOT the world's system.

Matthew 6:24 states: ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. The person will hate one master and love the other, or will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. You cannot serve both God and worldly riches.”

I John 2:15 states: ¹⁵ “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If you love the world, the love of the Father is not in you.”