



James 1:22-25

Live what you learn

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- True humility is made known by a desire to see God bring transform.
 - Romans 12:1–2
 - Self-deception is a constant enemy.
 - James reflects the teaching of Jesus as He repeatedly made the same point about His will and His ways.
 - Luke 6:46
 - Luke 11:28
- Passages like these become gracious calls from God to wake up!

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

- The truth of the word serves a mirror.
- The phrase James uses gives the impression that they took a long hard look.

24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

- Simply seeing these things brings no corrective action.
- The point made by James is that they “*forget*” what the word revealed about them.
 - Conviction can be unpleasant and disconcerting.
 - Who wants to stress over the lack of obedience that will bring God’s judgment?
 - Jeremiah 6:13–15
 - Jeremiah 6:19
 - Some say, “*Well that’s the Old Testament. Jesus brings grace.*”
 - Hebrews 10:26–31
- It is not a wise thing to forget about the conviction brought by the truth of God.

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

- James considers the law of Christ, the truth of the gospel, the means of genuine freedom.
- James uses an interesting description of the means of freedom for followers of Jesus – “*the perfect law, the law of freedom.*”
- In context this is a further description of the “*word.*”
- “*perfect law*” - the completion of God’s revelation flowing in and through the gospel work of Jesus
- “*the law of freedom*” - gospel truth in Jesus is what sets people free
 - John 8:31–32

The purpose of knowing truth is

“being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts”

- The gospel truth of Jesus is not to make a glancing blow on our hearts and lives.
- It is a life-long process to be conformed to the image of Jesus and it is done in the light of His word.

“he will be blessed in his doing.”

- There is blessing in the earthly life of all those who lovingly learn and obey the teaching of Jesus.
- But let there be no mistake, the greatest time of blessing is eternity.

Questions to Consider

- How have you deceived yourself into thinking you are doing fine by hearing and learning the word?
- Is it possible that this passage and communion are a wakeup call for you today?
- What are some areas where confession, repentance and obedience are in order?
- Is your heart ready for freedom and blessing?



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