

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**FOR IF ANY BE A HEARER OF THE WORD, AND NOT A DOER,
HE IS LIKE UNTO A MAN BEHOLDING HIS NATURAL FACE IN A GLASS**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 25, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **JAMES 1:23-27**

James 1:23, For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

1. BACKGROUND

- a. This book was written by James, the son of Mary and Joseph, the half-brother of the Lord Jesus. Because certainly Joseph was not the father of our Lord. **Matthew 1:18, Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**
- b. It was written between AD 45 and AD 49.
- c. There are several James' under consideration.
 1. James, the brother of John, one of the sons of Zebedee.
 - a. These two brothers were called the Sons of Thunder by Mark in **Mark 3:17, And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:**
 - b. This James was slain by Herod, who at the same time put Simon Peter in prison. **Acts 12:1-2, Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2: And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.**
 - c. This is not the James who wrote the **Book of James.**
 2. James, the son of Alphaeus, called James the less in **Mark 15:40, There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;**
 - a. This James was mentioned in the list of apostles.
 - b. We know very little about this James and as a result we conclude he is not the author of this book.
 3. In **Matthew 13:55** the Bible says, **Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?**
 - a. In the beginning, these brethren did not believe in Jesus as Saviour. **John 7:5, For neither did his brethren believe in him.**
 - b. There came a time after the resurrection of the Lord, that there was a wide belief that Jesus was the Son of God. **Acts 11:21, And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.**
 - c. Many of these men came to know Christ as personal Saviour.
 - d. In **Acts chapter 15**, the James that authored this book presided over the great council in Jerusalem. **Acts 15:13, And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:**
- d. James was very active in the Jerusalem church; as a matter of fact, he became pastor of that church.
- e. The James who authored this book is the one who the Apostle Paul refers to in **Galatians 2:9, And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen,**

and they unto the circumcision.

- f. We have stressed many times before that Scripture is written to three groups of people: the Jews, the Gentiles and to the Church. **1 Corinthians 10:32, Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:**
- g. It is especially important for us to recognize that this book was written to the twelve tribes scattered among the nation.
- h. There has been a lack of understanding in the interpretation of the **Book of James.**
- i. James' major theme is faith; however, he emphasizes in great detail from our faith comes works.
- j. We know we are not saved by our works which the Apostle Paul lays down vividly to us in **Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
- k. Also in **Titus 3:5, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**
- l. Faith is the root of our salvation and works then becomes the fruit of our salvation. **James 2:14, What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? James 2:17: Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18: Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**
- m. Faith is the cause of salvation and works are the results of salvation.
- n. We are sanctified by works according to **Titus 3:8, This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.**
- o. **Ephesians 2:10** tells us, **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**
- p. Both Paul and James are not coming from different points of view. They both emphasize faith and the fact that if we are a believer we will maintain good works. **Matthew 5:16, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
- q. **James 2:18** brings this out in a very vivid fashion, **Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**
- r. Also in our Scripture today, **James 1:22, But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**
- s. **James 2:20, But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?**
- t. The **Epistle of James** deals with various issues, as a matter of fact, it deals with a wide range of ethical issues.
 - 1. Sin
 - 2. Pride
 - 3. Prejudice
 - 4. Hypocrisy
 - 5. Worldliness
 - 6. An unbridled tongue
 - 7. Apathy
- u. This Epistle would compare very favorably with the **Book of Proverbs** and the Sermon on the Mount.
- v. There are several other themes worthy of note from this great book.
 - 1. We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith never stands alone it reveals itself through obedience, faithfulness, and fruit of the believer.
 - 2. We cannot be saved by any good work, regardless of how small or how big it might be. **Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
 - 3. Faith without good works is not real faith; it is not translated into saving faith.
 - 4. We must be doers of the Word and not hearers only.
 - 5. Our human strength is unable to bridle the tongue, but through God's saving grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the tongue can be bridled as we walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
 - 6. There is no place in God's program for discrimination, or greed in the life of any committed believer. **Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;**

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer the July 25, 2021 Morning Message for the Introduction

3. FOUR POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- f. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
 1. **James 1:23, For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:**
 2. This verse is speaking about a mirror.
 3. As we look in the mirror, we see a reflection of ourselves.
 4. As we look into our lives, we will see a reflection of ourselves; we either reflect the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving grace or we reflect our own flesh. **Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**
 5. When the Lord Jesus Christ was here on Earth, those who were with Him had a radiant gospel that was reflected through their minds and hearts.
 6. We Christians must be very careful as we look into the mirror, we don't miss a whole group of flaws.
 7. In order to become a substantial, steady and balanced Christian, we must saturation our minds with the Word. We cannot live the Christian life; the Holy Spirit must do it through us. **Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**
 8. I believe with all my heart that Christians need to remove from their vocabulary "the devil made me do it." We must remember we are seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and we are indwelt by the Godhead once we are saved and born again. Therefore, we conclude, that the believer does not have a sin problem but an obedience problem. **Romans 8:8-11, So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9: But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10: And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11: But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**
 9. We should get rid of all bad habits that are associated with a life outside of Christ as we bombard our minds with the Word of God. We are commanded to renew our minds..... **Romans 12:2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**
 10. We are representatives and reflections of the Lord Jesus Christ in everything we do and everything we say.
 11. Remember, a record is kept of every idle word. **Matthew 12:36, But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 1 John 5:7, For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**
 12. We cannot forget what we really are as reflected in this next point.
- g. For he beholdeth himself and goeth his way and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
 1. **James 1:24, For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**
 2. James has already told us in **verse 19, Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:**
 3. We are not to be hasty when we look in the mirror. **2 Peter 1:3-10, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having**

escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5: And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10: Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

4. We get a quick glance and say all is well, overlooking our serious flaws.
5. The Bible says in **Matthew 7:4, Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?**
6. We need to look at ourselves as God sees us. **1 Corinthians 11:28, But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.**
7. Many do not realize the Word of God is quick, powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword. **Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
8. My friend, I ask you today what is in your heart?
9. Our personality is developed from our thoughts, thought pattern, and our inner attitude.
10. These flaws will not be so prominent in our lives if we realize we represent the Lord Jesus and not forget from where He has brought us. **Psalms 40:2, He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.**
11. We are indeed a child of God, and He has commanded us to walk in the Spirit so we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **Galatians 5:16, This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

h. This man shall be blessed in his deed.

1. **James 1:25, But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**
2. Let's examine the perfect law of liberty.
3. This is not the Mosaic Law where the Ten Commandments were laid down.
4. The Son of Man has given us freedom. **John 8:36, If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**
5. **John 14:15, If ye love me, keep my commandments.**
6. Paul says in **Galatians 6:2, Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.**
7. The law that Paul is speaking of is not the Ten Commandments. **Romans 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**
8. **1 John 5:3** puts the icing on the cake, **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**
9. The Bible tells us in **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**
10. If Christians would not be forgetful hearers and be conscious of the fact that we need to be doers, the Lord says He has made us free.
11. When we have freedom in Christ we are free indeed! **John 8:36, If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**
12. **Psalms 1:1-6, Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2: But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3: And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4: The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5: Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6: For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.** **Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

i. If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue.

1. James 1:26-27, **If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. 27: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**
2. This should be a warning for us today about our words.
3. We boast on one hand about having faith in Christ then we blow our testimony with our words. **James 3:14-18, But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15: This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16: For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17: But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18: And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.**
4. We need to be careful what we say and how we say it.
5. We must be careful about the tone of our voice. We must be careful to not allow ourselves to be irritated over things the devil causes to pop up.
6. We need to be considerate of people and of their feelings.
7. The Bible says if we don't do this, we deceive our own heart.
8. This means we did not get a clear picture in the mirror of what we look like.
9. The warning for us in this verse is this, man's religion is vain.
10. I ask today, is your religion in vain? Remember, that our religion is viewed on the basis of how we use the tongue. **Psalms 12:3, The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Psalms 34:13, Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Proverbs 10:31, The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out. Proverbs 12:19, The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. James 3:8, But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.**
11. Do you have pure religion, undefiled before God the Father?
12. Notice what James tells us in **James 1:27, Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**
13. What a tremendous statement. Pure religion is Christ living in us, being considerate of those who are afflicted, and to live on the positive side of life and not on the negative.
14. On the positive side of life there is acknowledgment, acceptance, approval, appreciation, admiration, adoration, and affection.
15. On the negative side of life there is criticism, doubt, suspicion, greed, jealousy, hatred and fear.
16. These things will naturally come out in our lives if we walk in the flesh.
17. The Bible tells us to be unspotted from the world we must live on the positive side of life and not the negative. **James 1:27, Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**
18. All things work to the good for those who love God. **Romans 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**
19. We are not to allow ourselves to be entangled with the world; we are not to excuse ourselves on the basis of our nasty attitude. We are commanded not to give place to the devil. **Ephesians 4:27, Neither give place to the devil.**

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, none of this is possible until you know that Christ is the living Saviour sitting at the right hand of the Father.
- b. Have you accepted Him as personal Saviour? If you have, it is time to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus.
- c. If you have not accepted Him as Saviour, you need to come and ask Him for forgiveness.
- d. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- e. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- f. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man**

believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- g. Jesus says in **Matthew 11:28-29**, ***Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.***
- h. Rest for the soul is what we need.
- i. Please stand.

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