

PRACTICAL FAITH

A Letter from James



Doing the Father's Word: Pure Religion - James 1:26-27

1

INTRODUCTION

- Overview/review
- Trials/temptations/humble receptivity of the Word/personal responsibility in doing the Word
- What does James have in mind? What are some "front line" issues that he is thinking about when it comes to truly living in worship to God the Father?
- What does He have in mind as fundamental to being God's children and obeying His Word?

2

BRIDLING OUR TONGUE (26)

If anyone **thinks** he is *religious* and does not *bridle his tongue* but *deceives his heart*, this person's religion is **worthless**.

- A bridled tongue is not a silent tongue
- A bridle to keep from two ditches
- (-) hurtful, reviling, lying, scornful, derogatory, cutting, corrupting, harsh
- (+) flattering, enticing, seducing, boasting

3

VISITING THE AFFLICTED (27)

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit *fatherless* and *widows* in their affliction, (Ps68:5 Is1:17)

- More than monetary, but personal compassion, care, and companionship
- EP's counsel to a friend in *The Wisdom of Each Other*

4

RESISTING THE WORLD (27)

and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- Not complete avoidance by separation
- Image: the soul as a **garment**
- Defiling ideas, attitudes, perspectives, images, etc. - unavoidably splashed
- Avoidance of soaking, dyeing, steeping
- Constant cleansing by the the Word

5

RESPONSE

- James' emphasis is on practical religion as the true evidence of a living faith, not merely believing the right things
- Three common counterfeits:
 - Speak your truth - regardless of how it impacts others
 - Pursue your comfort - to the neglect of those in need
 - Follow your desires - exposure to the world doesn't effect me
- How does my view of being a disciple of Jesus line up with James' view?

6
