

Orientation, aligning our thinking to a reality

It's not until we serve God His way, that it applies to eternal value.

We may be about all kinds of spiritual activity, but God isn't interested if it's not His way. It's just human viewpoint thinking.

James

Suggested key memory verse

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able; but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

James 1:26-27 (NKJV)

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.
27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Aligning our thinking with God's

1. Religion: Its meaning

Verse 26-27 (NKJV)

26 If anyone among you thinks he is **religious**, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's **religion** is useless.
27 Pure and undefiled **religion** before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Nothing in context would suggest that religion means: ritual, human good, human morality, ethics, church activity such as Hinduism or Judaism, Buddhism or New Age concepts. But all of these ideas are associated with the word religion from the world's perspective. But the Bible gives us a radically different concept from all these other ideas.

So all of the religions adherents are depending upon something they do to carry favor with God. Religion puts the emphasis on human activity—morals, works and human merit in order to gain divine approval.

So religion, then, is man doing the work and then God is supposed to bless him.

For that reason, we say Christianity is not a religion but Christianity is a relationship, a relationship based upon the fact that God did all the work and man simply receives it or accepts it. Man can do nothing to gain the favor of God. So Christianity is a relationship based upon the merit of someone else, and that someone else is Jesus Christ our Savior and His perfect righteousness.

It is a system that is exclusively based on the concept of grace.

Satan's greatest tool is human good, human morality.

He uses religion to distract people from the spiritual life, from salvation, and to put the emphasis on their own efforts.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NKJV)

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light:
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

This present worldly concept of religion is do-goodism

If we are going to be of any benefit in society, we must be engaged in correcting the social ills and social problems; and by doing so we are going to make our country perfect, and we are going to bring in perfect society, and as a result God will be impressed. So when we come to this word and we see it in the English everybody is going to say
1) If you are going to be really religious and do good you are going to watch your mouth, and
2) your going to take care of the sick, the elderly, and the orphans.

2. The fear of God: meaning, I'm going to be very careful to know God's word; and to do God's word, God's way.

a. 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear**, **slow to speak**, **slow to wrath**;

20 For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore let aside all filthiness and excesses of wickedness, and receive with **meekness** the implanted word, which is able to **save your souls**

22 **you** **must** **be** **doers** **of** **the** **word** **and** **not** **hearers** **only**.

23 For ye hearers of the word **and** not **doers** be like to the man observing his natural face in a **mirror**;

24 For he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful **hearer** **but** a **doer** of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

An example to illustrate the point:

Contrasting the self-debilitated believer with the advancing believer

Verse 26-27 (NKJV)

26 If anyone among you thinks he is **religious**, and does not **bridle his tongue** but **deceives his own heart**, this one's religion is **useless**.

James teaches, **There is no value in serving God on our own terms. "It's useless."**
He could just correct the problem before we advance spiritually.
Then he tells us exactly what the problem is, according to context, he's not advancing because he's not **hearing** God's word.

27 **Pure and undefiled religion**

before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

28 **Cleanse**

1 John 1:8 (NKJV)
8 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The act itself may not look any different from the do-goodism of religion. The difference is the rationale behind the act. It's why we are doing it, it's our understanding of reality that is different.

It is for this very reason that we memorized:

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

d. James is using sins of the tongue to represent all categories of sin.

The whole metaphor here is talking about bringing oneself under the control of doctrine. "... he must not deceive himself." He must learn doctrine, he must apply doctrine.

Psalms 34:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.
14 Depart from evil and do good: Seek peace and pursue it.

Romans 16:17-18 (NKJV)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.
18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

James 3:2-3 (NKJV)

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Indeed we can control our mouths that they may obey us, and we can bridle our whole body.
4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.
5 Even so the tongue is like a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire has kindled.
6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire by hell.
7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.
8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poisons.
9 If we tame our tongue and father, and what if we are tamed, who have been made in the similitude of God?
10 Can a fig tree, my brother, be fruitful when it is not a fig tree? Nor can a spring produce both salt water and fresh.
11 Does a fig tree bear olives, or does a fig tree bear figs? Neither can a spring produce both salt water and fresh.
12 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)

16 These six things the Lord hates: Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
17 A proud look, **A lying tongue**, Hands that shed innocent blood,
18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,
19 **A false witness who speaks lies**, And one who sows discord among brethren.

For the Christian, trials, temptations, or tests are designed to put pressure on the mentality of our soul, they are intended to reveal flaws.

The flaws are those areas where we are still operating by means of the flesh in carnal mindedness.

The flaws in the mentality of our soul are often due to our lifelong habit of responding with our emotions instead of acquired doctrine from the thinking part of our soul.

The tests therefore reveal areas for opportunity to apply doctrine, thus correcting the flaw in the mentality of the soul.

Any passage in Scripture has only one meaning or interpretation, it's not the right use of scripture to use it for anything other than that particular meaning. And so if you understand it to mean something other than its intended interpretation in it's immediate context. Even if that concept is communicated elsewhere in Scripture, it's still a bad practice.

When the believer brings and presents an offer that, the all nations offering to bring through the tongue

As when the tongue does control it will have no pleasure of offering to our Lord, we want to allow to use God's Word to help anybody else in their time of need.

Troublemakers are always characterized by sins of the tongue

276 **Katharizo** καθαρίζω, to (caus.) wash, cleanse, purify, cleanse (Mt 23:26, 27:18, Jn 13:10, 13:17, 13:18, 13:19, 13:20, 13:21, 13:22, 13:23, 13:24, 13:25, 13:26, 13:27, 13:28, 13:29, 13:30, 13:31, 13:32, 13:33, 13:34, 13:35, 13:36, 13:37, 13:38, 13:39, 13:40, 13:41, 13:42, 13:43, 13:44, 13:45, 13:46, 13:47, 13:48, 13:49, 13:50, 13:51, 13:52, 13:53, 13:54, 13:55, 13:56, 13:57, 13:58, 13:59, 13:60, 13:61, 13:62, 13:63, 13:64, 13:65, 13:66, 13:67, 13:68, 13:69, 13:70, 13:71, 13:72, 13:73, 13:74, 13:75, 13:76, 13:77, 13:78, 13:79, 13:80, 13:81, 13:82, 13:83, 13:84, 13:85, 13:86, 13:87, 13:88, 13:89, 13:90, 13:91, 13:92, 13:93, 13:94, 13:95, 13:96, 13:97, 13:98, 13:99, 14:1, 14:2, 14:3, 14:4, 14:5, 14:6, 14:7, 14:8, 14:9, 14:10, 14:11, 14:12, 14:13, 14:14, 14:15, 14:16, 14:17, 14:18, 14:19, 14:20, 14:21, 14:22, 14:23, 14:24, 14:25, 14:26, 14:27, 14:28, 14:29, 14:30, 14:31, 14:32, 14:33, 14:34, 14:35, 14:36, 14:37, 14:38, 14:39, 14:40, 14:41, 14:42, 14:43, 14:44, 14:45, 14:46, 14:47, 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