

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 as devoid of spiritual activity, but God isn't interested if it's not His way, it's just human viewpoint thinking.

James

Scriptural 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.

same metaphor (*peirasmos*) as Paul, i.e. (NKJV) 1 Cor 10:13: "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."

10:6-18

Success in fear God

1. Our goal is to become that purified people zealous of good works as in Titus 2:14

THAT means we are here to not only hear the word of God, but to also do the word of God TODAY

2. Understanding the context:

3. The basic theme throughout the epistle of James:

Challenging the believer with the fact that at all through life there are going to be a myriad of tests.

And that for the believer these are examinations or evaluations that give us the opportunity to apply doctrine.

If we do not have doctrine in our soul we will not pass the test.

If we do not pass the test we will not advance spiritually.

Success in the spiritual life is absolutely dependent on the fear of God.

The number one priority in the Christian learning doctrine

General elements underlying our thought processes in times of testing

James 1:1-27 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.

3 Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let us be patient, because when the perfect work is finished, we shall receive a crown of life which will be given to us.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For he will not receive that he will receive anything from the Lord.

8 He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation.

10 But let the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the field he will pass away.

11 For he has flourished like the grass which grows in the field, but the field withers, and the flower falls, and his beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich must not rely on the riches which will pass away.

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

18 And if he can will the good, he will bring it forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

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 lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

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

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man gazing at 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.

26 He who is a successful disciple, he looks intently, diligently, examines very closely, Bible doctrine.

27 Doctrine is more real to him than any experience any distraction, anything else in life.

The Bible is the mirror giving us an objective evaluation of what is going on in our life and soul.

What happens dynamically within the soul as we accumulate doctrine is that we develop criteria for evaluation.

In terms of analogy, what we have formed within our own soul is a mirror.

That mirror is the doctrine that we have had that gives us the ability to evaluate:

our thinking and

our circumstances

and situations

so that we can then under the filling of the Holy Spirit draw upon the resources of doctrine stored in our soul and apply the right doctrine to those situations in life.

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.

3. Religion:

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 of 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.

Psalms 91:1-16 (NKJV)

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

5.

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8.

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10.

God's word was designed to challenge us, to develop us, to mature the believer, to that purified people zealous for good works.

How to be a successful Christian

Practicing 1 John 1:9 (rebound)

Humility

Goal oriented

The source of temptation is man's own sin nature

God is the source for the solution

James writes this epistle teaching believers how to handle adversity on the basis of doctrine

and he organizes his teaching around three mandates which are given in verse 19

Contrasting the self-absorbed believer with the advancing believer

The fear of God

The fear of God

Teaching us the highest priority in the believer's life is learning doctrine.

save your

Academic knowledge

Fulfilling Titus 2:14

James said you continue in the word that you are my disciples indeed

objectivity

mean the quality of being objective: the peace lacked any objectivity.

Deuteronomy 4:1-5 (NKJV)
1 Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you.

2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

3 Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Horeb, for the Lord said unto you, I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

4 I saw you have seen what the Lord did at Horeb, for the Lord said unto you, I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

5 I saw you have seen what the Lord did at Horeb, for the Lord said unto you, I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

6 Therefore be careful to observe them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding, in the sight of the people who will hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

7 For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as we are in all this law which I set before you this day?

9 Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart at the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.