

DOERS OF THE WORD

Meditating on James 1:19-27

Dealing With the Passage

Just Obey!!!

This passage is not very difficult to understand. We all know what is being stated and how we are to respond. The challenge for us is to think about specifics more deeply and then to take action.

The New Heart

We understand that this is what Christ has purchased on the cross for every believer. He will not let believers stay in a state of hearing only. *Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:28-30, Titus 2:11-12*

A Healthy Expectation

Having said that, we are to *fight every day* to make sure we are obeying like we should. We cannot be lazy about this.

All in the Shadow of the Cross

- ❑ Labor and fight, not to gain salvation but because of your salvation.
- ❑ Remember that it is only because of the cross that you have a desire to obey. Jesus Christ gave you that desire.
- ❑ Remember that you are forgiven every time you fail.

So...

Fight, struggle and battle until the end to live for Jesus while you are resting in Him alone!

A Bit About “How”

How “Not” to Evaluate

Hearers can:

- ❑ Agree completely with what has been said. They just don't do anything about it.
- ❑ Love to hear the word as often as possible. They can constantly seek new information because it means they don't have to stop and apply anything.
- ❑ Love to discuss the specifics of the text, as long as they are distracted from the main point.
- ❑ Say they are sorry or repentant for not doing what the text says without actually changing their actions.
- ❑ Read all the best commentaries on the text. They just stop short of application.
- ❑ Teach the theology of the text clearly, they just don't act on it.
- ❑ Memorize the text.
- ❑ Identify all the ways they fall short of what God expects.
- ❑ Make a plan for changing, they just will not follow through.
- ❑ Hold others accountable to obey the text.

So What Do I Do?

Here are some things we can do to be serious about obeying rather than just hearing in relation to Sunday morning:

- ❑ Take notes on what you read with a specific focus on what you need to do differently. This will only work if you review your notes and make sure you are actually following through.
- ❑ Read ahead of time the passage that will be covered at church. This will give you an opportunity to think through what is being taught.

- ❑ Find out the songs that will be sung on Sunday morning and make sure you understand them and truly mean what you are singing.
- ❑ Have someone ask you about how you are applying what you are learning.
- ❑ As you study, make sure you also think through some specific application points that you can write down and measure.
- ❑ If you go out to lunch after church, make sure you are thinking through the application of what you have just learned and talk about it with others.
- ❑ Get enough rest Saturday night so that you are ready to think and participate in the service on Sunday.
- ❑ Take action especially on the sins that you already know about. Don't let your sin continue.

So What?

- ❑ Am I willing to take this seriously?
- ❑ What would this look like specifically in my life?
- ❑ What habits will I need to change to actually obey this passage?
- ❑ Am I willing to do this?
- ❑ What obstacles will come in the way and how will I get over them?
- ❑ Sometimes we can be so focused on the issues we do not know about what God says that we are ignoring what we actually do know. Make sure we are obeying what we do know.
- ❑ Do I recognize my complete dependence on Scripture? Does that draw me back?
- ❑ Blessing comes to doers and not people who only hear. This takes the Old Testament idea and brings it over to us concerning blessings and cursings. While their blessings were outward and physical, ours are focused on spiritual blessings. *Psalm 1, Deuteronomy 28*