

# *True Religion*

**James 1:19-27**

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 Of His own will He brought us 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 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. 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

**Why are you listening to this sermon?**

## James 1:22-24

“ ... be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”

**Why listen to this sermon?**

## James 1:20-21

“be ... slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not **produce the righteousness of God**. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to **save your souls**.”

## James 1:20-21

“be ... slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness (humility) the implanted Word**, which is able to save your souls.”

**“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word ..., keep it (i.e. **do it!**) and bear fruit ....” Luke 8:15**



## James 1:22-25

“ ... be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 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 (freedom) 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.

## James 1:22-25

“ ... be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man **observing** his natural face in a mirror; for he **observes** himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”

**25** But he who **looks** (peers!) 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.

## James 1:22-25

“ ... be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”

**25** But he who **looks** (peers!) **into the perfect law of liberty** (= Word) 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.

## James 1:22-25

“ ... be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”

**25** But he who looks (peers!) into the perfect law of liberty ( = Word) 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.

# Contrasting the Hearer and the Doer

**vv 23-24**

**v 25**

**1. Man looks at himself**

**1. Man peers**

**2. in a mirror;**

**2. into the “perfect law of liberty”  
(God’s Word);**

**3. walks away and quickly  
forgets.**

**3. he perseveres (“continues in it”)  
and does not forget.**

**4. he is no doer.**

**4. he is a “DOER of the work” and  
is “BLESSED in what he does”.**

# What to do

- ✓ 19 – **listen more, speak less, and don't get angry so quickly**
- ✓ 21 – **get rid of impure and evil practices**
- ✓ 26 – **control your tongue (preview: 7 Sep)**
- ✓ 27a – **visit orphans and widows in their trouble, (caring for the poor, needy, weak & marginalised)**
- ✓ 27b – **keep oneself uncorrupted from the world.**

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# “hearing but not doing” – 4 glaring e.g.

- ❑ Lying (Black and White)
- ❑ Stealing (Hardware and *Software*)
- ❑ Tithing (1 out of 10)
- ❑ Sabbath (1 day in 7)



# RECAP:

- ✓ Do not be deceived (22, 26), hearing without doing makes a person's religion false and useless (26).
- ✓ True religion presents us righteous (20) and mature (4, 12, 18), ready for Heaven.
- ✓ The wise man is rooted (21) in God's Word (= Law, 25) through perseverance (4, 25) in doing.
- ✓ Such a man "saves his soul" (21) and is "blessed in what he does" (25).

# TO DO LIST



*Organize my family so maid can have weekly rest day (by ... ? )*

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*Delete illegal software, music and movies in my computer (by next Sunday)*

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*Bring someone to Mid-Autumn Outreach on 6 Sep*

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*Sign up for Baptism and Membership Class*

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*Take care of neighbour's son so his single-mum can take a break*

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