

What do you see,
looking in the Mirror of God's Word?



James 1:19-27

My dear brothers, take note of this.. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.

Do what it says.

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.



James 1:19-27

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this.. to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



My dear brothers, take note of this..

I want to help you so pay attention to what I'm going to tell you ...



Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak
and slow to become angry,

Every one – this applies to us all

Ready listeners – 2 ears - not airing our own opinions

Listen and learn - but listen to whom? – context?

**LISTEN MORE,
TALK LESS**



Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak
and slow to become angry,

Slow to speak – 1 tongue

Consider what you are going to say before you
say it.

Objections – before hearing whole story?

Judgements – based on own ideas?

He will come back to the tongue again.

It can be dangerous.



Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak
and slow to become angry,

Temper under control – or over the top anger?

Be slow to become angry – Have you got the whole story?

Righteous anger or a sensitive spot?

Attempt to fix things by angry reaction?



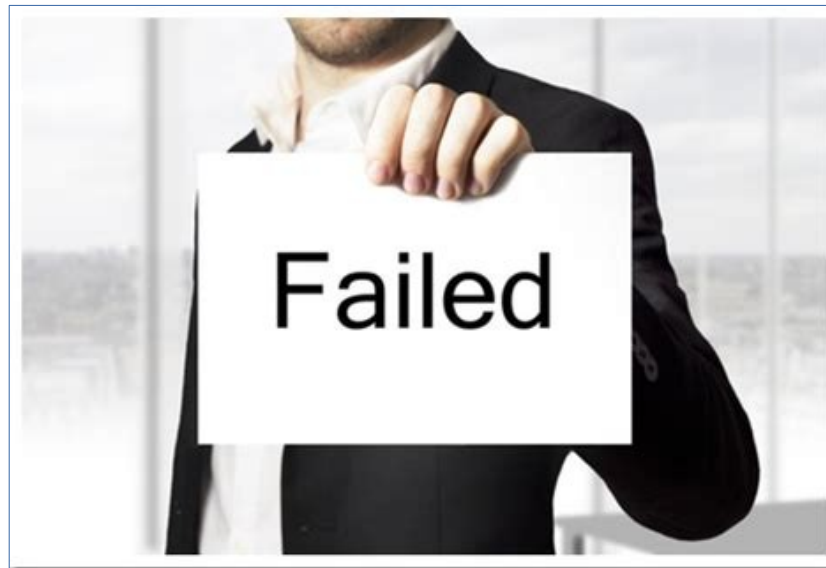
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for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Human anger is not always right
And doesn't produce the right results

The righteousness of God
Hebrew concept – living the right way, pleasing to God – c.f Job feared God and shunned evil

Driven by anger – demonstrations etc. achieve divisions rather than change for the better.



Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent

The better alternative – therefore

Clean out the rubbish!

Moral filth – they call it ‘art’ or ‘entertainment’ the way of ‘freedom’

Evil so prevalent – Were they the good old days?

The human condition – sin’s damage

Christians are living in a broken world – it’s war.

Get rid of – make sure it’s not part of your life

Not monasticism – or arrogant pride



and humbly accept the word planted in you,
which can save you.

Receive the seed of God's word
Right attitude needed to receive - teachable
Humbly -recognising we need God's grace and help



and humbly accept the word planted in you,
which can save you.

It has the power to rescue, restore, save

The Gospel is the solution and God's word gives directions for living – by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit working in each one of us.

How do we get the word implanted?

By faith. Believing it to be God's word that is powerful.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.

Just listening (to criticise or be entertained) isn't any good. We can deceive ourselves into thinking we have accomplished something. Acquiring knowledge without application is useless and deceptive – it gives a false sense of security.



Do what it says.

What is the difference between a hearer and a disciple?

Action is required – but be careful who you obey.

Do what God's Word says as rightly applied by the Holy Spirit.

cf. Jesus at the wedding at Cana John 2:5

The parable of the builders in Matthew 7:24



Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at **his** face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

A homely illustration.

Looking in the mirror.

How many mirrors do you have in your home?

You look – and see a problem spot? And forget.



Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at **his** face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

See yourself – or an image?
What kind of feedback do you want/need cf. Doctor visit.



Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at **his** face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

The mirror of God's word – reveals our souls (the face of his birth)

Search me oh God, Psalm 139

It is not intended to destroy, but expose to heal

But if you see and do not act on it – wasted effort.

Cf John 5:39 Scribes and Pharisee opponents of Jesus – “You search the scriptures BUT ...”



But the man who looks intently into the perfect law
that gives freedom,

Not just a quick glance – close inspection
= meditates, thinks about, applies personally
Perfect law (God's law in the light of the Cross and
Pentecost, and the New Covenant) makes you free
(real freedom)



and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard,
but doing it--

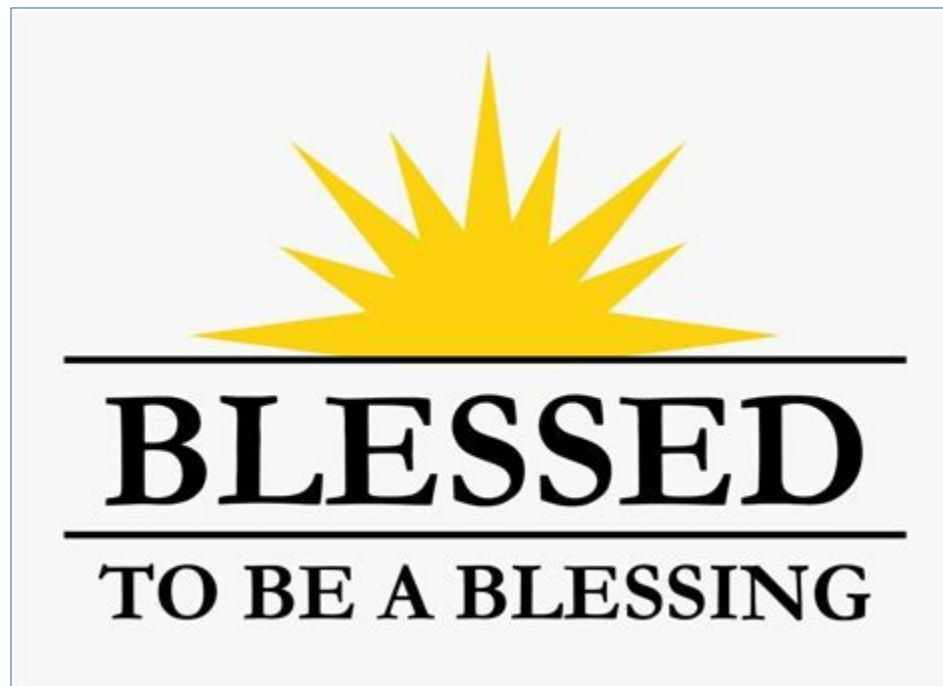
It's an ongoing process and continued application of
the truths God has revealed – heard or read – but it is
still His voice – leading to appropriate response.



he will be blessed in what he does.

cf. The Sermon on the Mount - beatitudes
A good result – blessed by God, having a personal
sense of doing the right thing (conscience approval)

But it comes from the 'doing' as you do it.



If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

A practical example:

Call yourself a Christian or Religious in a good sense?

But is there gossip, malicious unkind words, lies?

A tight rein – or the ‘horse’ will run wild



Watch what you say (guard your heart) Jesus said that out of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matthew 15:18)

If you don't – there is the danger of self deception - but others will know . And it negates your profession of being a believer.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this..

What kind of life actions please God?

Pure – from right motives

Faultless – lived out appropriately – God sees everything.

What does the Lord require of you?

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly
and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.



to look after orphans and widows in their distress

To look after (visit) others as well as yourself.

Particular focus on the vulnerable/weak/defenceless in society.

Life can be hard for such

cf. work in Armenia, closer to home, food bank, Salvation Army

Cf Acts 6. in early church

Acts 9 Tabitha (Dorcas)

Great gift of the Gospel too.



to look after orphans and widows in their distress
and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

We are in a polluting world – but he doesn't mean
chemicals etc.



and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

We are in a polluting world

So how do we keep it out of our lives?

A positive response

Trust in the Cleansing blood – forgiven.

Wash your feet – back to the cross.

Say ‘no’ to what God says is wrong for you.

Be filled with good things

Meditate on His word.

Be thankful for God’s promise to be with you and to help you live for him.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

1John 1:6-7 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.