

Careless Hearing ~ Undisciplined Hearing ~ Selective Hearing

James 1:19-27

I. We must LISTEN (vv. 19-22):

- A. As Christians, we must have a ready disposition to listen.
- B. Too often, we speak/react first. Instead, we need to be reminded of:
 - 1. Proverbs 17:27 – He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
 - 2. Proverbs 10:19 – When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.
 - 3. Proverbs 14:29 – He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.
- C. Most importantly, we must listen to God (vv. 21-22).
 - 1. We must prepare ourselves to hear God (cf. Ezra 7.10).
 - a. We must “take off” all filthiness.
 - b. We must have humility (The ability to receive rebuke and counsel in the right spirit).
 - 2. There is more than just listening ...

II. We must EXAMINE (vv. 23-25):

- A. The Word of God is like a mirror with its purpose being examination.
 - 1. “When a person looks into the mirror of God’s Word, he sees himself both as he really is and as he ought to be” (Shelly 42).
 - 2. James points out that one who hears and does nothing is like a person who looks into a mirror and does nothing.
- B. We must seriously study the Word of God.
 - 1. The Word is to be “implanted” (taken up residence within believers).
 - 2. We must look into it intently (cf. 2 Tim. 2.15).
 - 3. There is more than just examining ...

III. We must REACT (vv. 26-27):

- A. “Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them.”
- B. To react is to be a “doer.”
 - 1. Visit orphans and widows
 - a. Psalms 68:5 - A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.
 - b. Galatians 6:10 - So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
 - c. 1 John 3:17 - But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?
 - 2. Keep self unstained by the world