

# **“Be Doers of the Word”**

## **James 1:19-27**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. What are the marks of a mature Christian?
  - 1. Joyful in trials
  - 2. Triumphant over temptation
  - 3. The mature Christian is a doer of the Word
    - a) You cannot be a mature believer without a right relationship with the Bible, God’s Word
  - 4. Today, in our text, we will see:
    - a) You must hear the Word (v. 19)
    - b) You must receive the Word (v. 21)
    - c) You must obey the Word (v. 22)
    - d) All three are commands
  - 5. What is your relationship with the Bible?

### **II. Hear the Word (James 1:19-20)**

- A. The Word of God demands our attention
  - 1. “Wherefore” or “this you know” (v. 19)
  - 2. What do we know?
    - a) “The Word of truth” (v. 18)
  - 3. “The engrafted word” (v. 21)
  - 4. “The perfect law of liberty” (v. 25)
  - 5. He is speaking to Christians or “beloved brethren”
  - 6. James gives us three commands
- B. Be swift to hear (v. 19)
  - 1. It’s a readiness or eagerness to listen to God’s Word
    - a) Illustration- The young Samuel “speak Lord”
    - b) When you are reading the Bible
    - c) When you are listening to a sermon
    - d) Make it your prayer, “speak Lord, I am listening”
- C. Be slow to speak (v. 19)
  - 1. Our problem is that we are slow to listen and quick to speak
  - 2. The stoic philosopher “Zeno” said, “We have two ears and one mouth; therefore we should listen twice as much as we speak”
  - 3. “He that refraineth his lips is wise” (Proverbs 10:19)
- D. Be slow to wrath (v. 19)
  - 1. Wrath is the harboring of angry, resentful feelings
  - 2. An angry spirit is not a teachable spirit
  - 3. It keeps us from hearing, receiving, and obeying God’s Word
  - 4. Are you angry? Angry at God’s truth?

### III. Receive the Word (James 1:21)

#### A. The command to receive the Word

1. "Receive with meekness the engrafted Word" (v. 21)
  - a) "Receive" speaks of "a welcoming," or an "appropriating reception"
  - b) It means to "embrace it," or "make it your own"
  - c) Illustration- practiced by the Bereans (Acts 17:11)
  - d) "...when ye received the Word of God...not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
2. "The engrafted Word" (v. 21)
  - a) "Implanted Word"
  - b) God's Word is like a "seed" planted in our hearts. It brings forth fruit
  - c) Illustration- Jesus and the parable of the Sower and the Seed. Four kinds of "soils" or "hearts"
    - 1) Hard heart
    - 2) Shallow heart
    - 3) Crowded heart
    - 4) Fruitful heart
  - d) How's the soil of your heart?

#### B. The condition to receive the Word

1. "Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness" (v. 21)
2. You cannot grow if you are unwilling to give up the sins that the Bible condemns
3. You must get the weeds out

#### C. The way we receive the Word

1. "With meekness" (v. 21)
2. It means you don't resist

#### D. The reason to receive the Word

1. "Which is able to save your souls" (v. 21)
  - a) The Bible can save your life
  - b) "Able to build you up and give..." (Acts 20:32)
2. The Word of God, welcomed in the soil of your heart, can bring blessed fruit
  - a) Salvation
  - b) Sanctification
  - c) Service
  - d) It's a blessed way to live

### IV. Obey the Word (James 1:22-27)

#### A. The command

1. "Be ye doers of the Word" (v. 22)
2. True hearing and true receiving must result in obeying
3. If you only hear, you are deceiving yourself
4. Just hearing is not enough
  - a) So many professing Christians today only hear
  - b) Jesus spoke about wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7)

#### B. The illustration (vv. 23-25)

1. "Looketh" is literally "to look carefully" (v. 25)

2. “Perfect law of liberty” (v. 25)
  3. “Continue therein” (v. 25)
  4. “This man” is empathetic (v. 25)
  5. “Shall be blessed in his deed or doing” (v. 25)
    - a) Obedience brings blessing (Psalm 1)
    - b) Wise and foolish builders
- C. The application (vv. 26-27)
1. If we give the Word of God:
    - a) Attention (hearing it)
    - b) Reception (receiving it)
    - c) Application (doing it)
  2. It will be seen in three practical ways in our lives
    - a) In our words (v. 26)
      1. Speech
      2. Wise words
    - b) In our works (v. 27a)
      1. Service
      2. A loving heart
    - c) In our walk (v. 27b)
      1. Separation
      2. A holy life
      3. “Keep himself unspotted from the world”
      4. “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word. Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:9,11).

## V. Conclusion

- A. *“This book will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book.”* – John Bunyan