

1 **RECEIVING THE WORD**

James 1:19-25

2 **James 1:19-22**

- ⊙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.

3 **James 1:23-25**

- ⊙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.

4 **Key word = IMPLANTED**

- ⊙ KJV = engrafted
- ⊙ Greek = εμφυτον
- ⊙ James is using a familiar illustration for his day
- ⊙ James is saying THE SEED = THE WORD OF GOD.
- ⊙ THE GROUND = THE HUMAN HEART

5 **THE NEED FOR THE IMPLANTED WORD**

- ⊙ v, 21: "Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness."
- ⊙ FACT: The human heart is like a field overrun with every kind of wild weed. Jeremiah 17:9
- ⊙ Land cultivated for a long time – left fallow for a year
- ⊙ Farm at Geneview, Texas

6 **THEREFORE, Pointing Back**

- ⊙ Swift to hear
- ⊙ Slow to speak
- ⊙ Slow to wrath
- ⊙ Col. 3:8 - "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."
- ⊙ 1 Peter 2:1-2 - "¹ Therefore laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking. ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."
- ⊙

7 **Sin's Depth - "overflow of wickedness"**

- ⊙ Same word as Mark 8:8 - Jay Green's literal translation it says, "And (they) took up over and above seven baskets (of) fragments."
- ⊙ James 1:21- overflow, superfluity comes from same root word.
- ⊙ What did they do with the seven baskets of fragments?

- ⊙ We are to seek out every fragment of sin in our lives and lay it aside, put it off

8 **Sin's Damage**

- ⊙ Not dealt with specifically, but implied; whether sins of speaking, or other sins, sin always causes damage.

9 **THE PREPARATION NECESSARY FOR RECEIVING THE WORD**

- ⊙ Human instruments: Co-laborers with God.
- ⊙ Work of God
 - > John 3 - Nicodemus: "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
 - > 1 Peter 1:23 - "Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."

10 **WHAT WE NEED TO RECEIVE – THE WORD**

- ⊙ Attitudes toward the Word:
 - > Ignore it
 - > Disbelieve it
 - > Belittle it
- ⊙ Hebrews 4:12
 - > Living and Powerful
 - > Sharp – effective – penetrating
 - > To the very depths of our nature
 - > Discerns our thoughts – therefore can change them.

11 **THE MANNER OF RECEIVING THE WORD - "with meekness"**

- ⊙ Gee & Haw
 - > Shorty and Big Foot
 - > Alaskan Husky
- ⊙ Jesus said, "I am meek and lowly in heart."
 - > Totally obedient to the Father
 - > While here on earth He had no will of His own.
- ⊙ The Christian is to receive the Word with *meekness*

12 **THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING THE WORD**

- ⊙ "*which is able to save your souls.*"
- ⊙ Objections: Isn't this written to Christians?
- ⊙ Salvation pictured and presented as PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE
 - > Past - Ephesians 2:8
 - > Present - 2 Corinthians 2:15 - "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing."
 - > Future - Romans 13:11- now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

13 **PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE**

- > Past - Ephesians 2:8

- > Present - 2 Corinthians 2:15 - "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing."
- > Future - Romans 13:11- "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

14 **James uses save here in the present tense of our salvation**

- ⊙ Salvation = ILLUSTRATION: Our living room rug
- ⊙ Salvation = Field
 - > We are the field.
 - > God is the farmer.
 - > He wants the best harvest possible out of His field - that is what salvation is.

15 **THE PROBLEM - SUPERFICIAL CHRISTIANITY - vv. 22-24**

- ⊙ A Simple Comparison - "like a man observing his natural face in a mirror."
 - > Man getting ready in the morning
 - > Picture of a Christian - His daily routine of prayer and Bible study
 - > The Carpet isn't getting cleaned
 - > "*Filthiness*" - medical usage = wax in the ear
 - > Many Christians - their spiritual ears are plugged up.

16 **A Sad Conclusion**

- ⊙ He thinks, but he does not know: v. 22 - "deceiving yourselves."
- ⊙ He looks, but he does not see: v. 24 - "he observes himself. . . and immediately forgets what kind of man he was."
- ⊙ ILLUSTRATION: Brand name Watch Advertisement

17 **Application: Many Christians**

- ⊙ Hear and read the Word of God--they don't see the real truths
- ⊙ Read a passage - come away without a scratch.
 - > Isaiah 66:2: ". . . But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word."
 - > 1 Thess. 2:13: ". . . when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."
- ⊙

18 **He hears, but he does not act**

- ⊙ v. 24: "he observes himself, and goes away."
- ⊙ He is completely unchanged by God's Word.
- ⊙ Like a social event.
- ⊙ Like water running off duck's back.

19 **THE SOLUTION, v. 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."
- ⊙ Getting into the Word, "Looks into"

- ⦿ Illustrated: Luke 24:12 - Part of the resurrection story: "But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened."

20 **Getting the Word into Us Comparison:**

- ⦿ Eph. 5:18,19 - "18. . . be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in you heart to the Lord."
- ⦿
- ⦿ Col. 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."