

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Text: James 1:22-25

Title: Doing the Word

*Proposition:* In James 1.22-25, James reminds us that we must do God's Word so that we do not deceive ourselves but instead enjoy certainty of God's blessing.

1. The Command to Hear and Do (v.22)
2. The Danger of Deceit (v.22)
3. An Illustration of Hearing (vv.23-24)
4. The Difference in Hearing with Doing (v.25)
5. The Joy of the Law (v.25)
6. The Promise of Blessing (v.25)

Study Guide Questions:

- James 1:22 says "prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." In what ways can someone feel rewarded by listening to God's Word even if they don't do God's Word?
- What are some potential consequences of deluding ourselves? (Matthew 7:24-27; Matthew 13:20-23)
- Have you ever deceived yourself that you were doing well spiritually based only on your listening? What awoke you out of that delusion?
- Since James calls us to be doers of the Word, what is that Word (See v.18, v.21, v.23 and v.25)? Is the Word the Gospel only or does it include the commands of the King? Why?
- Can you think of times when doing the word may be (or being with) thinking, believing, trusting or another mental/heart action? In other words, is doing the word always physical? What are some other mental/heart verbs that are doing?
- What may be some practical steps in doing the Word as a habit, instead of merely hearing and experiencing?
- What is the point of James' mirror illustration in vv.23-24? (Hint: What makes this illustration ridiculous?) Why is this a good illustration of listening without doing?
- In v.25, what are the two big differences between the one who listens and does and the one who merely listens? How could you turn those two differences into practical steps toward doing in an area of your life?
- Why does James refer to the law as "perfect law" and "law of liberty"? What law is James referring to?

- How does thinking of God's commands as fulfilled and taught by Christ help you love His law and be eager to keep His law?
- How does God bless you "as you do" in the present? How will he bless you in the future?
- Has any portion of James Chapter 1 been something you've merely listened to? What in James 1 have you been working at doing? (Remember doing isn't limited to physical actions.)
- How can the resurrected Jesus help you today as you seek not to merely listen but to listen and do?