

Real Faith Works:

PURE RELIGION

James 1:19-27 (NIV)



- "Fake or Fortune?"

1. Receive the implanted word (vv. 19-21)

- the planted-in word (v. 21b) ¹

When?

How?

- the lived-out word (vv. 19-21a) ²



Quick to _____



Slow to _____



Slow to _____

2. Be doers, not just hearers (vv. 22-25) ³

- don't be a hearer only (vv. 22-24)

- o a word critic ⁵

- o a word expert ⁶

- o a word resister

- o a word forgetter



¹ Acts 8:14; 11:1; 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

² Compare: "Quick to hear" (Prov. 18:2, 13), "slow to speak" (Prov. 17:27-28; Mk. 10:21), "slow to anger" (Prov. 14:29; 16:32; 25:28)

³ Matthew 7:24-29

⁴ In James' day, Roman mirrors were fairly rare made of polished metal discs (e.g. bronze) attached to handles and liable to tarnish.

⁵ Ezekiel 33:30-32

⁶ Acts 17:21

- be a doer too (v. 25) ⁷

- o concentrate

before, during, after

- o cogitate

- o communicate ⁸

3. Beware of worthless religion (vv. 26-27)

- some religion is worthless ⁹

- true religion is practical ¹⁰

- o control of the tongue ¹¹

- o care for the needy ¹²

- o conservation from the world ¹³

⁷ Compare Luke 8:15 and 18

⁸ Christopher Ash, *Listen Up! A Practical Guide to Listening to Sermons* (N. America: Good Book Co., 2009).

⁹ In v.26, "worthless" (*mataios*) means devoid of force, ineffectual, non-productive, useless, dead.

¹⁰ J.C. Ryle, *Practical Religion* – 19th century evangelical Anglican

¹¹ Compare James 3:3

¹² Brief helpful books on orphan & widow care: Brian Croft & Austin Walker, *Caring for Widows: Ministering God's Grace* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015); Dan Cruver, ed., *Reclaiming Adoption: Missional Living through the Reclaiming of Abba Father* (Adelphi, MD: Cruciform, 2011).

¹³ In v. 27, the word "polluted" (*hamiantos*) means without defilement, free from contamination, used of Jesus in 1 Peter 1:19.



Starter Questions:



1. Anything you want to talk about from what you've heard today?
2. Explain how Jesus lived out the triple exhortation in v.19?
3. How does the culture we're part of fight against our ability to concentrate and meditate on God's word?
4. In your life, how does keeping God's word (His perfect law) give you freedom?
5. What practical steps will you take to make sure you are not a hearer-only but a doer?
6. Does your faith in Christ pass the tests of authenticity?