PURE RELIGION BEFORE GOD!

<u>James 1:26</u> **<u>If any man</u>** among you **<u>seem (Εἴ τις δοκεῖ)</u>** to be **religious (θρῆσκος),** and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's **religion (θρησκεία)** is vain.
<u>James 1:27</u> Pure **religion (Θρησκεία)** and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James is <u>not</u> here discussing how to be saved – although he does talk about that…

<u>James 1:18</u> Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

<u>James 2:5</u> Hearken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God chosen** the poor of this world **rich in faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised **to them that love him?**

As Paul does constantly:

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: **Acts 13:39** And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

James is addressing what salvation looks like after we are saved
Our devotion
Our worship
Our religious exercises / expressions of religion

- **True vs false**
- **Pure vs impure**
- **Undefiled vs defiled**
- **Useful vs worthless / vain**

James 1:16 **Do not err**, my beloved brethren.
James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves.**
James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, **but deceiveth his own heart,** this man's religion is vain.

How do we know?

<u>James 1:26</u> If any man among you seem to be religious, **and bridleth <u>not</u> his tongue,** but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

How do we know?

1. Speech under control!

<u>James 1:26</u> If any man among you seem to be religious, **and bridleth <u>not</u> his tongue,** but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Tongue = talking or speaking (lies, gossip, criticism, jabs &/ poking &/ put downs)

Bridled = controlled – the way we control a horse also controls the speech

Controlled speech:

- **When I talk**
- **When I <u>don't</u> talk**
- **What I talk about**
- **How much I talk**
- **And most important: what I talk to myself about!**

IT EVENTUALLY COMES OUT!

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things**? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

James discusses this here
James has already discussed this!
James will discuss this again!
James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear,
slow to speak,
slow to wrath:
James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. **James 3:2 For** in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, **and able also to bridle the whole body.**

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: But he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: And a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. **Proverbs 17:28** Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: And he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, **To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction**, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; For he hath visited and redeemed his people,
Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

2. Life on target / task!

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, **To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction**, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; For he hath visited and redeemed his people,
Luke 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God; Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

This isn't talking about being nice but visiting…visiting as God has visited us & visits us…

- **With mercy**
- **With comfort**
- **With relief**
- **With necessities**
- **With the gospel**
- **With help**

Isaiah 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; **Isaiah 1:17** Learn to do well; Seek judgment, **relieve the oppressed, Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.**
Exodus 4:31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.
Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.


We Like To
Move It
1-800-338-5424
Central Theological College
Attn: Ptr. Reuel Palit-ang
18 Rosas Street,
Dona Pepeng Subdivision
Banaba, San Mateo 1850
Philippines


We Like To Move
FROM:
TO:
Valentino D. Dacuno
Camille Homes Subdiv.
Lot 23, Blk 3
Brgy. Dalakit 6400
Catarman N. Samar
Philippines
PACKING SLIP HERE
SHIPPING LABEL HERE
FROM:
NAME:
TO:
CONTACT NO.:
Lake County Baptist Church
Noel P. Hipolito
3323 Sharon Pl, Zion, IL 60099
Valentino D. Dacuno
Camille Homes Subdiv.
Lot 23, Blk 3
Brgy. Dalakit 6400
Catarman N. Samar
Philippines
(Cell# 09262093764)

<u>James 1:27</u> Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, **<u>and</u> to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

3. Unspotted from the world!

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, **and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

Reading this past few weeks, modern commentators are blank about this! Since, at least, the 1600s Pastors would have / could have filled entire books! Since the 1960s???

1 Timothy 6:14 That thou keep this commandment **without spot**, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and without spot:
2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, **without spot**, and blameless.

Unspotted = uncontaminated, unstained, without blemishes

We all have 3 enemies:
World social
Flesh internal
The Devil supernatural…who simply uses the world & the flesh…

The world draws us…constantly
We want to fit in
We want to be liked
We don’t want to be scorned / mocked / hated / despised
To be in the in-crowd

Plus the world contaminates us so very easily!

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.**
John 5:41 I receive **not** honour from men.
John 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?