

Pure Religion before God "My Brothers Keeper"



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Class Outline

7:00 – 7:50

<u>Session</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
Pure Religion Before God			
One	James 1:27	May 4th	Religion Before God
Two	James 1:26	May 11th	Any Among Who ?
Three	James 1:18	June 1st	Begat He Us

Key Considerations

God reveals in these passages what religion is to him. Then throughout the book of James he describes the person that he empowers and enables to practice what religion is in his sight i.e. from his stand point.

To each of us who are open to consider it, God reveals that it is possible that we are practicing what we sincerely think is religion acceptable to him, but that in reality our religious practice is what he describes vs. 26 as vain religion. We learn from him that the Christian practicing vain religion ***has deceived his own heart*** and that the ***outward evidence*** of this deception ***is an unbridled tongue***.

A close study of the book of James reveals God's description of the Christian practicing pure religion and the Christian practicing vain religion.

The life style of the Christian practicing pure religion before God is undefiled and unspotted from the world. Unlike the Christian practicing vain religion, the tongue and life style of the Christian practicing pure religion is bridled...**James 1:19-20, James 3:1-2.**

This series of lessons from the book of James, encourages a closer consideration of what religion is in God's mind. We learned the two kinds of religion revealed by God and consider the inward life and outward conduct of the person who is practicing Pure Religion undefiled before God.

We discover, by defining and understanding the terms religion and religious, the bottom-line truth revealed in the book of James and other New Testament passages ***that all human conduct is religious***. We learn that our religious practice is the life style (habit of earthly life) that we are living. Our life style (religious practices) are vain or pure depending on the moral condition of our hearts.

Many of us have no doubt grown up believing in and practicing what we believe to be religion acceptable and pleasing to God. Our view of God, our thoughts about what pleases and displeases him, and what we have concluded we must do to please him is for many of us simply based on what we have learned from others. It is very possible that we have not thought much about what religion is to God. This could be because what we have learned from others has simply become the normal religious life style that we feel good about. Its all we know and we are afraid to think differently about it even if it is revealed in the Bible to be different.

The person whose soul God has birthed new through the truth has been gifted with the spiritual enablement's to practice religion that is pure in God's sight. Vain religion is the practice of souls not yet born again, or it's the practice of souls born of God but who choose to yield to the enticements of "Devilish Wisdom", and are not living under the Divine Grace that enables them to resist the Devil him and keep him fleeing from them (James 1:13-16, James 4:6-7, James 5:19-20).

Teachers	Main Thought	Objectives
<p>1. Primary</p> <p>Thomas Owens</p> <p>2. Backup</p> <p>Rudy Prowl</p> <p>3. Facilitators</p> <p>Devotion</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Prayer</p>	<p>The words religion and religious in James 1:26-27 defines the religious worship of the Christians who received this letter from James.</p> <p>We may discover in this study that our concept of what religion is to God may be very different than what religion in his sight.</p> <p>It is God's will that we know the difference and obey his commands to practice pure religion before him</p>	<p>1. Briefly define the word religion and religious.</p> <p>2. Discuss that our present thinking about what religion is to God may be very different than his own view revealed in the book of James.</p> <p>3. Learn the meaning of the terms religion and religious in James 1:26-27.</p>

> **Review:**

We have learned that a wise Christian endowed with knowledge from above is a Christian obeying the command to keep on praying for wisdom from above during their trials and temptations. We pointed out that God has assured us that our prayers for his wisdom will be answered and as they are we are perfected in the meek disposition of wisdom that motivates the good life style of a wise Christian. In Col 3:16-17, and Col 4:5-6, and Col 1:9-10 we learned that our walk in wisdom is a life style worthy of our calling and one that pleases God in all things. This is the **good life style-(James 3:13)** of the person practicing the works of pure religion **James 1:26-27**.

We hope that this foundation of knowledge provides adequate incentive to each Christian to incorporate prayers for wisdom in their day to day trials and temptations.

Class Study and Discussion

Jas 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.

Jas 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.

Class Exercise

What are your beliefs about what religion is to God. Answer this as it relates to yourself, family, friends, others, different religions in our world.

I Believe that religion to God is:

I. Introduction

James would have the recipients of his letter know, what religion is to God. He teaches them that the reason this is important is that it is possible to believe and practice our own version of religion, and sincerely think that it is acceptable to him, but that in reality our hearts are deceived and our religion is vain.

It seems to me that this difference is revealed in the book of James because God's desire is, that the Christian Brethren to whom James writes, and every human being, avoid this deception.

Therefore the emphasis of this lesson plan is to help us understand what God reveals in the book of James about what religion is to him, and to encourage those who study this lesson plan to let him engage them as a person in its practice.

We began this lesson series looking at what religion is to God and comparing it with our present thoughts, ideas and conclusions about our current practice of religion and what religion is to us. We may discover from our study that our personal concept of what pleases God and what religion is to him may be very different than what we discover is religion in God's mind.



Read > James 1:26-27

Religion Before God

Key Point: Our personal concept of religion may differ from what God reveals in James and in the New Testament. God desires that we avoid the deception of vain religion he reveals to us in the book of James.

II. Key Words / Study at Home

Bible Definition and use in the New testament from Strong concordance or Thayer's Greek Lexicon

1. Religious: (G2357 *threῖskos thrace'-kos*) *adj*)

In James 1:26

General: Fearing or worshipping God
Specific : A devoted follower of or believer in a religion

2. Religion (G2356 *thrēskeia thrace-ki'-ah*) **noun**

In James 1:27: Religious worship

- a. Col 2:18 ... worshipping: worship of angels out of a vainly puffed up mind
- b. Acts 26:5 Paul refers to his pass religion as a pharasee.

3. Seem: (*dokeō dok-eh'-o*)

In James 1:26 to be of opinion, think, suppose

4. Before G3844 *par-ah'*

In James 1:27

- a. With one, i.e. in his judgment, he being judge
- b. From God's standpoint
- c. Such as God approves
- d. In the sight of

III Class Study and Discussion

Religion Before God Our personal view may differ from what God reveals

Jas 1:26 If any man among you **seem** to be **religious**, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this **man's religion** is vain.

Jas 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. KJV

Generally the word **religious** in vs. 26 means **fearing or worshipping God**. Specifically in James 1:26 it means a devoted follower of , or believer in a religion, a cause, etc.

As an adjective it describes the **thinking** of a Christian about their religious practices before God. In their thinking their religion is pure before God. But in reality their heart is deceived, and their **religion** is Vain. The evidence of this deception is an unbridled tongue. The term religion is a

noun describing their actual vain religious practice.

God reveals to us briefly , in verse 27, and throughout the book of James, what religious worship is **before him (from his standpoint, in his sight, or such as he approves)**. It is his obvious intent that the error of vain religious worship be avoided not only by the recipients of James letter but by Christians of every age who study this book.

One of the purposes of this study is to learn more about practicing what God considers pure religion and to learn what he reveals to us about vain religion so that we can avoid its deception.

Consideration-1 Our Personal View of what Religion is to God may differ from his

Each of us has come to this class with our own thoughts and beliefs about what we believe pleases God and what religion is to him. Our ideas about religion when we enter "The Faith" probably come from many different sources. We all have learned a lot about God from others and have formed many personal conclusions from that information about what we must do to please him. So, when we became Christians we probably already have well defined conclusions about what we believe religion is to God.

It could also be that as Christians we may not have really thought much about what religion is from God's standpoint, or in his sight. We may not have taken the time to learn and understand for ourselves what religion is to God. ***Obviously, this is even new revelation for the recipients of James letter to consider.***

Therefore, as you study the book of James, you might be surprised to learn that your current beliefs about what religion is to God may differ from what God reveals to you in the book of James. Consider that God devoted the entire book of James to describing the life and motives of the Christian who practices pure religion before him. God obviously desires that we understand and practice religion from his stand point and such as he approves, avoiding the satanic enticements to vain religious practice (James 1:16, 26)

As Christians, if we are blessed by him to realize in this study that our religion is vain, we can start at any time keeping the commands of God revealed in this book to draw near to him and let him enable us by grace to resist the Devil and practice the religion defined in James 1:27 (see James 4:7-8).



IV. Class Exercises

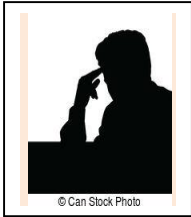
A. Match the Word and Give the Passage

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. Religious | a. to be of opinion, think, suppose ____ Passage_____ |
| 2. Religion | b. Religious Worship____ Passage_____ |
| 3. Before | c. Fearing or worshipping God ____ Passage_____ |
| 4. Seems | d. Such as God approves ____ Passage _____ |

B. Questions Fill in the Blanks

- James 1:26-27 teaches that our religious practice could be either _____ or _____?
- The heart of the person practicing vain religion is _____.
- The person practicing vain religion deceives his _____.
- The heart of the person practicing Religion before God is _____.
- The practical work of the Christian practicing Religion Before God is to _____.

V. Conclusion



Thought: The word religious occurs only in James 1:26 in the New Testament. It is an adjective describing the thinking of the Christian who believes himself to be religious before God. In reality, his heart is deceived, and his religion is vain. James 1:27 reveals that an unbridled tongue is the outward evidence of vain religion.

God reveals to us briefly, in verse 27, and throughout the book of James, what religious worship is before him (from his standpoint, in his sight, or such as he approves). It is his obvious intent that this error be avoided by the recipients of James letter along with other Christians of every age who study this book.

VI. Glossary of Key Words

(1). **Before** James 1:27

1. **Strong G3844 par-ah'** A primary preposition; properly *near*, that is, (with genitive case) *from beside* (literally or figuratively), (with dative case) *at* (or *in*) the *vicinity* of (objectively or subjectively), (with accusative case) *to the proximity* with (local [especially *beyond* or *opposed* to] or causal [*on account* of]). In compounds it retains the same variety of application: - above, against, among, at, before, by, contrary to, X friend, from, + give [such things as they], + that [she] had, X his, in, more than, nigh unto, (out) of, past, save, side . . . by, in the sight of, than, [there-] fore, with. In compounds it retains the same variety of application.
2. **Online Greek:** *In the sight of*
3. **RWP (Roberts word Pictures) From** God's standpoint
 - > **And undefiled before God and the Father** - That which God sees to be pure and undefiled.
5. **Barnes Notes:** That is, this enters into it; or this is **religion such as God approves**.

(2) **Seems** James 1:26

1. **Strong G1380 dokeō dok-eh'-o** A prolonged form of a primary verb *dokō* (used only as an alternate in certain tenses; compare the base of [G1166](#)); of the same meaning; **to think**; by implication *to seem* (truthfully or uncertainly): - be

accounted, (of own) please (-ure), be of reputation, seem (good), suppose, think,
Total KJV occurrences: 63

2. Thayer Definition:

1) to be of opinion, think, suppose James 1:26

Part of Speech: verb

(3). Religious...James 1:26

1. **Strong G2357** *thre[□]skos thrace'-kos* Probably from the base of [G2360](#);
ceremonious in worship (as demonstrative), that is, pious: - religious.

2. Thayer Definition:

1) fearing or worshipping God

2) to tremble

2a) trembling, fearful

In James 1:26: To be a votary of:

Part of Speech: adjective

a. Votary: a devoted follower of or believer in a
religion, a cause, etc.—

(4). Religion ...James 1:26, 27

1. **Strong's G2356** *thrēskeia thrace-ki'-ah*: From a derivative of [G2357](#);
ceremonial *observance*: - religion, worshipping. **Total KJV occurrences: 4**

2. Thayer Definition:

1) religious worship **James 1:26, Col 2:18**

1a) especially external, that which consists of ceremonies

1a1) religious discipline, religion..Acts 26:5,

Part of Speech: noun feminine

3. Online Greek: ceremonial observance -- religion, worshipping.