

"Meaningful Religion"
James 1:19-27

Introduction: meaningful religion is Christ centered.

- I. God desires a righteous life for us. (v.20)
 - A. We are incapable of getting it for ourselves.
 - 1. No one one can stand on their own righteousness.
 - 2. Romans 3:10
 - B. God provided the means for us to get righteous.
 - 1. Jesus Christ took on our sin that we might be righteous.
 - 2. II Corinthians 5:21
- II. Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to get angry (v.19)
 - A. Speaking and anger diminish, or eliminate, listening.
 - 1. We cannot physically speak and listen at the same time.
 - 2. Anger causes us to form arguements instead of listen.
 - B. Failing to listen causes us to miss God's voice.
 - 1. Deut. 30:19-20, Prov. 1-:5 and 18:13, and John 10:27
 - 2. close your mouth and let God speak (personal experience)
- III. Listening must be followed by doing. (vs. 22-25)
 - A. Two Biblical examples
 - 1. Noah (Gen. 6) listened, did, and was blessed.
 - 2. Lot's wife (Gen. 19) listened, did not do, was punished.
 - B. Looking into the mirror (vs. 22-25)
 - 1. The mirror shows what we physically need to work on.
 - 2. The Bible shows us what we spiritually need to work on.
- IV. Meaningful religion separates us from the world.
 - A. Jesus was in the world but not of the world.
 - 1. natural birth, raised as the world, experienced the world.
 - 2. preached and taught contrary to the world.
 - B. We are to be in the world, but not of the world.
 - 1. every interaction we have with the world leaves us a little dirty.
 - 2. The cumulative effect is a dirty, or sinful, life.

Conclusion: If we listen to God and His Word, do what it says, and separate ourselves from the world we will have the meaningful religion God desires for us.