



Lesson 3: Rightly Receiving God's Revelation (1:19-27)

The apostle James was a very practical Christian. His letter is a reflection of this practicality. The overtone of the entire letter is that of practicality. It is filled with admonitions and encouragements for proper Christian conduct. In today's text we find ample evidence of the practical Christianity that James advocates and emphasizes.

As we open to James 1 we are confronted with the necessity of living word-centered lives by being _____ - _____ of God's revelation. All the major themes in James are introduced in chapter 1 and enlarged upon in other chapters. James 1 is the truth given and James 2-5 is the truth enlarged upon. This is a spiral of introductory thought and it begins with our preparation of the truth. In order to demonstrate true faith, you must properly receive God's Word

THE PROPER _____ FOR RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

The focus here is on the character of those who live out the Word.

- A. You must prepare your _____ to be _____ ("*swift to hear*")
- When James tells us to be swift to hear he is not speaking in generic terms. James is talking in the context of the Word of Truth. This is the theme of verse 18, and also the subject of verse 21, 22 and following. The context of verse 19 is clearly God's Word. James' message is basic: Be quick to hear the Bible! James is pretty clear in his practicality here. His You. Pursue every opportunity to be exposed to God's Word.
- B. You must prepare your _____ to be _____ ("*slow to speak*")
- The context remains the same. Be swift to hear the truth of God, slow to the speaking. Eagerly pursue hearing the Word, but cautiously, slowly, and carefully become a teacher of it. James 3:1 warns "*let not many of you become teachers.*" There is wisdom in having a holy fear that you may misrepresent the truths of God's Word. James advocates for careful study that digs into the Bible *before* proclaiming what you think you know.

- C. You must prepare your _____ to be _____ ("*slow to wrath*")
- There is a disposition that receives the Word and there is a disposition that rejects. You must never develop hostility toward the truth of God because it runs counter to your own desires. Read your Bible with a meekness to listen and a passion to receive.

THE PROPER _____ FOR RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

The focus here is on the commitment of those who receive God's Word.

- A. Without application exposure to the Word is _____ (v. 22-24)
- Meer hearers are self-deceivers. The application of God's Word requires some radical amputation. Hearing God's Word is not a means in itself, it is a means to an end and the end is obedience!
- B. With application exposure to the Word is _____ (v. 22-24)
- God calls us to a high calling. He calls us to rise above the ordinary, he calls us to be doers of his word. All too often we can hear but never do. We fool ourselves when we assume that just because we have heard or read or studied a truth, we have internalized it. James is moving here from the theological to the practical.

THE PROPER _____ OF RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

The focus here is on the conduct of those who receive God's Word.

- A. Demonstrate you have received God's Word by your _____ (v. 26)
- The bitter, unkind, thoughtless, unbridled tongue reveals a bad heart opposed to godliness. The word "vain" in this verse shows the emptiness of his confessions. The wicked man is shown to be wicked by the contents of his mouth.
- B. Demonstrate you have received God's Word by your _____ (v. 27)
- After we have seen ourselves and Christ in the mirror of God's Word we must see others and their needs – this is true worship! The truth is that words are no substitute for deeds of love. God does not want us to pray for others to minister as a substitute for our own personal service.