

DOERS OF THE WORD (James 1:19-25)

I. Preparing to be a doer (19-21a).

- A. One cannot simply be a doer of the word of God.
- B. We have too many problems that need to be taken care of before we can properly grow as Christians.
- C. James that we first need to learn to control our tongue.
 - 1. We need to be one who listens intently.
 - a. It is hard to hear what God wants us to know if we are always running off at the mouth.
 - b. We should have a great desire to hear that which is from God.
 - 2. We need to be one who talks when necessary.
 - a. There are those who talk enough for two or three people.
 - b. They always know something or have something to say.
 - c. We have many sayings in regards to this idea.
 - (1) God gave us two ears and one mouth to should listen twice as much as we talk.
 - (2) Talk little, work much.
 - 3. We need to control our tempers.
 - a. Just last night three people were murdered and three others wounded because one could not control his mouth.
 - b. The temper is hard to control but must be in order to be able to be a Christian.
 - c. We especially need to control our tempers in regards to receiving God's word.
- D. There is no way we can do the right things when we are not able to control our tempers.
 - 1. One who can't control his temper when being taught God's word is one who won't be able to be converted.
 - 2. Anger causes us to break God's laws, not keep it.
 - 3. The righteous works of God are those things we are commanded to do to be saved and stay saved.
- E. We must be willing to rid ourselves of all things that are detestable to God.
 - 1. The word filthiness refers to things that are disgusting.
 - 2. Any sinful habits must be removed before we can be saved.
 - 3. This shows us how we should view sin.
- F. Superfluity of naughtiness refers to a heart that is filled with desire to sin.
 - 1. It is overflowing with sin.
 - 2. There has to be a heart transformation in order to prepare oneself to be a doer of the word of God.

II. The practice of one who would be a doer (21b-22).

- A. If we want to be one who is a doer we must be meek.
 - 1. This word means strength under control.
 - 2. It was used of oxen under the yoke.

- a. Those oxen do not lose their strength.
 - b. They have their strength controlled by the yoke.
 - 3. We must place our strength that we once used to be sinful under the control of God to do His righteousness.
- B. We then receive God's word into our hearts.
 - 1. If anger or quick speaking about what hear is present we are not able to receive God's word.
 - 2. The word receive is written in a tense that means you receive it one time and keep it in there.
 - 3. We hear the gospel and allow it to grow in our hearts.
 - 4. It is not just a mere hearing of the word but a taking it in and keeping it and nourishing it.
- C. The word engrafted carries the idea being planted and allowed to take root or control.
 - 1. Hopefully we see a great similarity to the parable of the sower.
 - 2. The word has to fall in good ground, honest hearts, in order for it to take root..
- D. When we receive it in this way it has the power, meaning of the word able, to save us and keep us saved.
 - 1. When we practice following God's word, being a doer of it, we will stay saved.
 - 2. God's word is extremely powerful if we are willing to receive it and do it.
- E. When we fail to do that which we've heard, we are simply deceiving ourselves.
 - 1. It is a doing of all the law that is important as James mentions in another section of his work.
 - 2. Simply hearing the gospel and feeling good about what we heard is not enough.
 - 3. We must put into practice that which we've heard.

III. **The promise made (vs. 23-25).**

- A. Before James reveals the promise to the one who is a doer, he gives an illustration about those who only hear the gospel but don't put it into practice.
 - 1. If we take something from God in but are forgetful about it, it can do us no good.
 - 2. It is like looking in the mirror in the morning, going out the door and forgetting what you look like.
 - 3. This person looks so quickly that there is no impression made of his looks.
 - 4. Sermons or classes merely listened to but not taken in to an honest heart can do no good.
 - 5. They have no influence on the life of one who is a hearer only.
- B. However, for the one who really looks into God's law, the law of liberty, His word, he has a great promise.
 - 1. Looketh carries the idea of stooping down to take a close look at

something.

- a. This is the word used of Peter and John looking into the tomb where Jesus had been.
 - b. This is the word used of angels wanting to know of God's plan to save mankind.
2. The one who studies God's word and takes it into his honest heart will continue in it.
 3. When he continues in it, he is going to be blessed.
- C. Those who will be doers of the word of God, the works of righteousness, are going to be greatly blessed by God.
1. We are blessed in this life with all the spiritual blessings that God promises His children.
 2. We are blessed in the next life with a home in heaven.