

# JAMES STUDY

## CHAPTER 1:22-25

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

*“Practicing The Word of Truth”*

### THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
- deceiving yourselves.

**INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text vv. 22-25**

### James 1:22-25

**22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

### The Summation Sentence:

Hearing a bible teaching is as useless to your spiritual growth as parking your empty car at the gasoline station. The bible is not static, it doesn't just sit there. The bible is the book that prepares, instructs and propels it's reader onward and outward  
- vv. 22-25 is the key that starts our engines!

*“Receiving the Word of Truth”*

vv. 19-21

*“Practicing the Word of Truth”*

vv. 22-25

*“Sharing the Word of Truth”*

vv. 26-27

In light of trials - In light of testing - In light of temptations  
We must do more than hear the word, we must do the word

# *“Practicing The Word of Truth”*

Matthew 7:24-28

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 **"Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."** 28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching....

((because He struck through to the human heart))

## The Fact of the Matter is:

You and I are either deciding to DO the Word and Grow  
*or*

We are being lazy, forgetful hearers and we are in fact NOT growing at all

## THE DANGER IS WITHIN

our own self standard - self grading

2 Corinthians 10:12

...But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

## Our Self Deception Comes When We Think:

1. - Someone else can do it
2. - The church has people that do that stuff
3. - I wouldn't be any good at it
4. - I don't have the time to do anything for God

## Doing the Will of God is Doing the Will of God

Luke 8:21

But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Luke 11:28

“blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

# “Practicing The Word of Truth”

## 1.) We Need to ‘Roll up’ Our Spiritual Sleeves

vv. 22

But be **doers** of the word, and not **hearers** only,  
deceiving yourselves.

### a.) The instruction we need at all times

vv. 22a

But **be doers** of the word, and not hearers only,

\* **be** 1096 ginomai (ghin'-om-ahee);  
to arise; to get up and get doing, because you can do it

## To stand and become a doer

John 1:14  
And the Word **became** flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,  
(same word)

**To make the change - which is not an option**

As Jesus went from spirit to flesh, so we are to  
go from flesh to spirit

Philippians 4:13  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 2:13  
for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

\* **doers** 4163 poietes (poy-ay-tace');  
to perform the script; to "poet"; to **say** and **do** from the heart

Ephesians 2:10  
For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared  
beforehand that we should walk in them.

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

IS LIKE A SPIRITUAL

## Sir George's Smorgasbord

Just Sit and Sample

We need to change our minds about  
sermons and bible studies

\* only grk 3440 monon (mon'-on);  
to being hearing all alone, a lonely hearer - cannot share it with another

The Context is  
Being Tested & Tempted

vv. 22 is a commandment - become a doing doer of the word

*Christians are to be living 'verbs' in the World*

***"The Christian's Greatest Danger"***

IS HEARING WHAT TO DO, BUT NEVER DECIDING TO DO IT

b.) What happens when we fail to read the instruction vv. 22

not hearers only, **deceiving yourselves**

Have you ever bought something that needed assembly?

**READ THIS FIRST**

the instructions usually come in the package

...I thought I bought a bicycle for Jr.

It's a bicycle from one angle / a lawn mower from another angle / a T.V. antenna from another angle

Some Christians are Like That  
No Body can Figure Em' Out - What are You?  
from this angle you're a Christian / from that angle you're man of the world

**YOU'VE NEVER READ THE INSTRUCTIONS**

*"The Greatest Danger"*

\* **hearers** grk auditor  
to audit a class. To sit in a class and hear with an impact

to be in class without an incentive

\* **deceiving** grk 3884 paralogizomai (par-al-og-id'-zom-ahee);  
to miscalculate, to misreckon, to miss the point of entry

There's a danger to being at church  
God will require us now to be a doer,

**Why?**

Because 'hearers only' are in danger  
of being deceived

Luke 12:48

...For to whom much is given, from him much will be required;  
and to whom much has been committed, of him will I ask the more.

## A Quiz

**What are you doing at your church  
to advance the gospel of Christ?**

Matthew 28:19-20

19 "Go therefore and **make** disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "**teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

**What are you doing at your church  
to advance others in Christ?**

John 13:14

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,  
you also ought to wash one another's feet.

*Is Jesus being glorified in my church through me?*

A Christian lives to do His Word  
at home / at work / on vacation / at play

John 8:31

Jesus said to those who believed Him, "If you abide in My word,  
**you are My disciples indeed.**

b.) The Illustration of the Point being Made

vv. 23

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,  
he is like a man **observing** his natural face in a mirror;

Here the Holy Spirit equates hearing with looking

**The Point is This**

If you hear the word and do not go out and do it,  
You're like a man who looks at himself in the mirror

\* **observing** to **understand** what you hear. To **take in** what you hear, to **agree** with what you hear- to say amen!

He sees the truth, and he approves of it - it's his face

*but he's miscalculating*

\* **natural face** grk 1078 genesis (ghen'-es-is);  
the face of his nativity; figuratively, both spiritual or earthly

### The Various Views

ie. He's not a Christian at all - but a fooled hypocrite - the face of his earthly  
ie. He's is a Christian but is wayward from the Lord - the face of his spiritual  
ie. He's a Christian who is not calculating correctly - auditing, not applying

While Looking in the Mirror, He says...

"I go to church, I tithe sometimes, I'm doing pretty good"

#### Matthew 25:13-29

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

The Importance of Hearing, To keep on Hearing,  
To Remember, To Keep on Remembering, to Do and to Keep on Doing

## The Mirror is the revealed word of God

A hand held mirror for personal use  
Socrates required all of his students to carry with them a held mirror

Socrates said,  
If you like what you see in the mirror,  
avoid evil living - for it makes you less attractive  
But if you do not like what you see in the mirror  
begin to do good things - for it can make you beautiful

## Look to The Mirror of God's Word

# *"Practicing The Word of Truth"*

## 2.) The Hearers Fatal Mistake

vv. 24

for he **observes** himself, goes away,  
and **immediately forgets** what kind of man he was.

### a.) He Fails to See Himself in the Word

vv. 24a

for he **observes** himself, **goes away**,

He does not project himself into the word  
The word cannot project itself into Him

Revelation 3:17

**the church at leodiceia**

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

# This man leaves his “Consciousness of God” at the door

You can be the pope and make this mistake and it's a sin

## **If Not, you will miscalculate your course**

I John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness,  
we lie and do not practice the truth.

You miscalculate your course - you might not make it

I John 2:4

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments,  
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

You miscalculate your course - you might not make it

Deuteronomy 31:11-12

11 "when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 "Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may (be in awe) to fear the LORD your God and **carefully observe** (to do) all the words of this law,

Psalm 119:103-105

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

## **b.) The Danger of Forgetting**

**vv. 24b**

and **immediately forgets** what kind of man he was.

Proverbs 28:9

One who turns away his ear from **hearing** the law,  
even his prayer becomes a sin to God.

There is no mention of Satan or the world or anything else that threatens us  
but we ourselves

The Danger of Not Hearing to Listen (listening implies doing)

Matthew 13:12-16

12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' 16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

Amos 8:11

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of **hearing** the word of the LORD.

Because of lazy listening / otherwise known as APATHY

**When people refuse to hear,  
He takes away their ability to listen**

It Doesn't Matter how much you Know about the Bible  
**WHAT MATTERS IS,**  
Are You Doing What You Know?

The thought is

"That's me in the mirror, I know me, I know all about me, I even know who I am"  
But leaving that place, he forgets the features, the attributes, the uniqueness of who he is, and puts on someone else

*"Practicing The Word of Truth"*

3.) Being a True Hearer makes for a Happy Life

vv. 25

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty **and** continues in it, **and** is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

But he who **looks** into the perfect law of liberty

\* looks grk to stoop down alongside the word. To bow down to the entire bible

## The Law of Liberty

The commands of God are instructive, directive, and good, resulting in us being liberated

# IN THE BIBLE I SEE WHO I REALLY AM

God's Intentions:

An absolutely complete and fulfilled in life

b.) Now we know what to do

vv. 25b

and **continues** in it, and is not a **forgetful** hearer but a **doer** of the work,

- He "stays" at it
- He works at "remembering" it
- He decides to "do" what it says

Revelation 3:8

"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, you have **kept My word**, and have not denied My name. (They did it)

I John 4:17

In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment..... because in this world we are like him.

A Real Christian is like Jesus in this World

Acts 4:13

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

c.) The Lord is Looking to Bless Someone

vv. 25c

**this one** will be blessed in what he does.

**“This One”, That One, This One...**

(I like that way that sounds)

“It sounds like He’s Shopping”

2 Chronicles 16:9

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you

The who....  
this one will be blessed

In what he does  
In whatever he does

### **How Do I Become a Doer?**

- Realize that I am already a Doer - I just need to go do
  - Decide to be a faithful hearer
  - Determine to Keep on Hearing

Now Look Around this Church to See a Need (it may be a someone near you)  
Begin Now to do what is Needed, what is right, what will bless others

#1 Look into the Word

#2 Keep looking at it

#3 Don't forget it

#4 Go out and do it

James Would Say, "Such a Deal"

## The memory verse

**James 1:22**

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