

How to Really Profit from the Bible

James 1:21-25

Introduction:

- A. The Bible answer man's most soul-searching questions.
 - 1. Where did man come from?
 - 2. Why is man here? (Cf. Eccl. 12:13).
 - 3. Where is man going?
- B. The Bible is designed for man's profit (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
 - 1. It does not profit all who hear (Heb. 4:1-2).
 - 2. It will profit us as much as we allow it.
- C. James gives some requirements needed to really profits from the Bible.

Discussion:

I. Meekness on Our Part (v. 21).

- A. Foolish pride hinders many from receiving truth (cf. John 9:34).
- B. A know-it-all attitude is conducive to profitable Bible study.
- C. Meekness involves a willingness obey (John 7:17)

II. Action on Our Part (vv. 22, 25, 27a)

- A. In the Bible, those who acted on the word were blessed.
 - 1. The Pentecostians (Acts 2:38, 41).
 - 2. The early church (Acts 2:42).
 - 3. Abraham (Jas. 2:21-23).
- B. In the Bible those who did not act on the work were not blessed.
 - 1. The chief rulers (John 12:42).
 - 2. The demons (Jas. 2:19).
 - 3. Believing alone is not enough (Jas. 2:14-18, 24, 26).

III. Self-examination on Our Part (vv. 23-25)

- A. Should look into Bible to see ourselves as we really are.
 - 1. Tend to over-estimate ourselves.
 - 2. Tend to minimize the seriousness of our faults.
- B. Should look into Bible to what we should be — "perfect" standard.
- C. Should look into Bible to correct our flaws — a mirror.

IV. Restraint on Our Part (vv. 19-21)

- A. A quick temper hinders one from receiving word (vv. 19-21; cf. 2 Kings 5:11)
- B. Filthy and wicked hearts hinder the reception of the word and salvation (v. 21)
- C. Unbridled tongues hinder the word and production of pure religion. (vv. 26, 19).
- D. Worldliness hinders the word and production of pure religion (v. 27b)

Conclusion:

- A. If you are not getting anything from the Bible you might check on these things.
- B. If you would receive good from the Bible, do not be a forgetful hearer — obey?