

# If Anyone ... Thinks He Is Religious – Part 1

Jas. 1:26-27

## Introduction:

- A. Multitudes claim to be religious, but not all please God. (Cf. Acts 17:22)
- B. James makes several recommendations for anyone thinking himself to be religious.

## Discussion:

### **I. Let Him Bridle His Tongue (1:26)**

- A. An unbridled tongue is not only restrained, but properly directed.
- B. An unbridled tongue does much damage (3:1-12)
- C. An unbridled tongue has many avenues: Lying, gossip, tattling, flattery, etc.

### **II. Let Him Practice Pure Religion.**

- A. An example to vain religion is unbridled tongue (1:26).
- B. Two examples of pure religion are:
  - 1. Benevolence (1:27).
  - 2. Unspotted from world (1:27; cf. Rom. 12:2).

### **III. Let Him Endure Temptation (1:12)**

- A. Must keep proper frame of mind (vv. 2, 3,8)
- B. Must keep an unwavering faith (v. 6)
- C. Must recognize the source of temptation (v. 13-15).

### **IV. Let Him Respect God's Word.**

- A. Must receive it with meekness (1:21)
  - 1. Because of what it is - *God's* word (2 Thess. 2:13)
  - 2. Because of what it is able to do (1:21; Acts 20:32)
- B. Must be doers of the word (1:22-25).

### **V. Let Him Be Impartial (2:1-13).**

- A. God respects character, not persons. (Cf. Acts 10:34,35).
- B. Must be careful lest outward appearance become sole measuring device.

### **VI. Let Him Couple His Faith with His Works.**

- A. Faith without works is dead (2:14-16).
- B. Faith without works is incomplete (2:18-22; cf. Acts 8:37,38)
- C. Faith without works cannot justify one. (2:23-26; cf. "Faith only ... wholesome doctrine")

## Conclusion:

- A. If we claim to be religious let us back it up with proper attitudes and conduct.
- B. If you think you are religious, have you obeyed the Lord to become a Christian?