

“Pure Religion”

Jas. 1:26, 27

Introduction:

- A. It is not enough to just be religious – “vain” religion versus “pure” religion.
 - 1. To view all religion as equal may be “politically correct”, but not biblically correct.
 - 2. One can be “very religious” and be wrong (Acts 17:22 - asv, nkj)
- B. This first chapter of James gives us insights into “pure religion”

Discussion:

I. The Origin of Pure Religion (vv. 16-18)

- A. We are begotten by the “word of truth” from above (cf. 1 Pet. 1:23)
- B. It is important to know the origin of any religious practice (Matt. 21:25, 26)
- C. “Self-imposed religion” is condemned (Col. 2:23 nkjv)

II. The Trials of Pure Religion (vv. 2-15)

- A. The origin of our trials and temptations (vv. 13-15)
- B. The benefits of our trials and temptations.
 - 1. Patience (v. 3)
 - 2. Maturity (v. 4)
 - 3. Crown of life – if endured (v. 12)
- C. The help given for our trials and tribulation.
 - 1. Wisdom when properly asked (vv. 5-8)
 - 2. Grace to help from One tempted as we are (Heb. 4:15-16)
 - 3. Promise not to allow temptation beyond ability to bear (1 Cor. 10:13)

III. The Requirements of Pure Religion (vv. 16-27)

- A. Self-control.
 - 1. Tongue (vv. 19, 26)
 - 2. Temper (vv. 19-20)
- B. Humility (vv. 9-11, 21)
- C. Obedience to the word (vv. 22-25).
- D. Service to others (v. 27)
- E. Purity of life (v. 21, 27)

Conclusion:

- A. James one does not an exhausted study of pure religion – but it does give us some good insights.
- B. What is the origin of your religion?
- C. How well are you handling the trials and requirements of pure religion?