

Religion That Saves

Jas. 1:26-27

Introduction:

- A. There is no shortage of religion in the world.
 - 1. Athenians were very religious, but lost (Acts 17:22).
 - 2. Saul was very religious, but lost (Acts 26:5).
 - 3. Thus, not all religion will save — vain.
- B. Three characteristics of religion that saves - pure religion.

Discussion:

I. It must Be True.

- A. Based on the truth of God's word (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom 10:17).
- B. Embraces the true and living God (1 Thess. 1:9)
 - 1. God, the Father (Heb. 11:6; Eph. 4:6).
 - 2. God, the Son (John 8:24,58; John 20:28-31).
 - 3. God, the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:4; Acts 5:3,4; 19:2-5)
 - 4. All others are false.
- C. Recognizes the "way of truth" (cf. 2 Pet. 2:2).
 - 1. The gospel plan of salvation (Acts 2:38; Eph. 4:5; 1 Cor. 12:13)
 - 2. The one church — its nature and function. (Eph. 4 & 5)
 - 3. The way of life for the Christian (Tit. 2:11,12)
 - 4. The hope of heaven and fear of hell. (Cf. Rev. 2:10; 21:8)
- D. Abides in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11)

II. It must Be Active.

- A. Involves doing and working (Jas. 1:25; 2:14-26).
- B. Active positively and negatively (Jas. 1:26-27; Tit. 2:11-12; Rom. 12:1-2).
- C. Active in becoming a Christian
- D. Active in living as a Christian (cf. Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:10)

III. It must Be Shared.

- A. What we learn we must pass it on. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Tim 4:16).
- B. We must share word of God, not our subjective experience (cf. Witnessing).

Conclusion:

- A. What about your religion — will it save you?
- B. Why not obey the Lord and be saved.