

Sunday, July 6, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Honest With Oneself

Series: James ... 3;

Text: James 1:19 - 27

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to take time on a regular basis to conduct a self-appraisal of their FAITH WALK.

In the devotional last week from James 1:12 – 18 we considered The Crown of Life and our Faith Walk: ~ 1. Faith Walk and the Crown of Life; ~ 2. Faith Walk Understands Temptation; ~ 3. Faith Grows Through the Word

1. The Word Must Be Personally Received:

~ verse 19a, *"Know this my beloved brothers; let every person be quick to hear,"*

~ The parable in Mark 4 of the soils is a lesson on hearing!

vs. 3, "Listen!"; vs. 9, "And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."; vs. 15, "when they hear,"; vs. 16, "when they hear"; vs. 18, "They are those who hear the word,"; vs. 20, "are the ones who hear the word and accept it"; vs. 23, "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."; vs. 24, "Pay attention to what you hear,"

~ Luke 8:18, *"Take care how you hear,"*;

~ Hebrews 5:11, *"About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing."*

~ Romans 10:17, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

~ vs. 19, *"let every person be quick to hear."*

Am I quick to hear? 2 Samuel 23:15 David talks about water from the well at Bethlehem.

~ If we are busy speaking we are not listening. This is especially true of prayer! Having a prayer list keeps us on track and allows us follow up; part of every prayer list should be – LISTENING!

~ Anger will block our hearing! *"It is the temper that helps to give steel its strength!"*

~ vs. 21, *"receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."*

Insert

~ Failure to receive sets one up to be deceived!

2. The Word Needs to be Personally Practiced:

~ vs. 22, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

~ It is not the hearing of the Word but the doing that brings the blessing. Psalm 1:1 - 3

~ Marking your Bible is a helpful tool but letting the Word mark you has an impact for time and eternity.

~ Notice that these verses compare the Word to a mirror!

~ vs. 23, *"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror."* Skin deep!

~ vs. 25, *"But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."*

~ The difference is like going to a photo booth compared to having an X-Ray!

~ 1 Corinthians 13:21, *"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."*

Wesley's Journal for June 22, 1739: John Wesley recorded responses to the Word preached –

"One before me dropped as dead, and presently a second, and a third. Five others sunk down in half an hour, most of whom were in violent agonies."

~ 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

~ Titus 3:5, *"he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."*

~ The engrafted Word:

~ Cleanses or restores: Exodus 38:8, *"He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of the meeting."*

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Ephesians 5:26, *"that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."*

~ Transforms: Romans 12:2, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

3. The Word Shared by Us:

~ vs. 26 - 27

~ The word translated "religious" (only occurs here!) means the outward practice, the service to God.

~ Colossians 3:17, *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

~ Someone once said that we might be the only Bible that some will read.

Conclusion:

Communion