

**James**  
**Women's Bible Study Revised 2022**

**Lesson 7: James 1:26-27**

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup>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.

<sup>26</sup>If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

***1) Before moving on to vv. 26-27, let's recap what we've learned in James Chapter 1. Complete the following statements:***

- Genuine faith can be tested by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Genuine faith can be tested by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Genuine faith can be tested of \_\_\_\_\_.

**2) In verse 22, James speaks of a person's self-deception. Let's look at one example of this type of self-deception. Read Matthew 25:1-13. Explain this parable in light of this idea of self-deception.**

**3) Remember the context of James' letter here. Why would he be warning of this self-deception to the Christians in the Dispersion?**

**4) If you had to explain to a young Christian or someone who is doubting their salvation using a Bible verse or two, which one(s) would you use?**

**5) There are two Greek words for religious below. Does knowing the meaning of these two words help you understand verse 26?**

- ***Thréskos (adjective form)*** – ceremonial worship
- ***Eusebeia – (noun form)*** – godliness, holiness

*(definitions from Blue Letter Bible Greek lexicon)*

**6) Verse 26 James is speaking to those self-deceivers. What type of person is this verse talking about?**

**7) Should the phrase “bridle his tongue” be taken literally or figuratively? Explain your answer.**

**8) In verse 27, what does James say that pure religion is?**

**9) In verse 27, how is the genuineness of a Christian's religion determined?**

**10) What does the word "visit" mean in this context? (Hint: Matthew 25:36, 43)**

***11) What verses do you think of that tell us about how a Christian's life is marked by love?***

***12) What is the significance that James says we are to visit/love orphans and widows? Why are these the people that James names?***

**13) In verse 27, in this context what does the word "world" mean?**

**14) What does the Bible say about loving this world?**

**15) According to James how does a Christian live?**

***16) So if, when you are evaluating your life/actions, you can say, sometimes I say things that I shouldn't, I don't always show love and compassion to others, and/or I sometimes I get hooked on a philosophy of the world, is it time to doubt your salvation? Look at your answers to #4. Do those still stand?***