

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Welcoming the Word

**SERMON REFERENCE:** James 1:21-27

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #0512

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) James 1:21-27

b) The Bible is full of great truths; but these truths, even if we know them, do us no good if we do not receive them.

i) Someone may know the plan of salvation and still not be saved.

(1) We are not saved by the plan of salvation but by the man of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

ii) There are many people who know theology but have never received the truth.

iii) It is one thing to know facts about Jesus; it is another thing to know the Lord Jesus.

iv) It is one thing to hear the Word of God; it is quite another thing to welcome the Word, to receive the Word.

(1) James 1:21

c) The book of James was written to those who are already saved, to the twelve tribes scattered abroad.

i) Why does James 1:21 refer to the need to be saved when the audience is already saved?

(1) Salvation is in three tenses:

(a) We have been saved.

(b) We are being saved.

(c) We shall be saved.

(2) There is no contradiction between the three tenses of salvation; all three truths are there.

(a) As Christians, we have been saved in the past when we received the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

(i) We are saved forever from the penalty of sin.

(b) We are being saved currently from the power of sin.

(c) We shall be saved, when we go to Heaven, from the possibility of sin.

d) In James 1:21, James is not talking about going to Heaven one day when he mentions receiving the engrafted Word which is able to save our souls.

i) This is referring to receiving the Word of God that is able to deliver our psyche.

(1) The Greek word for "soul" is "psyche."

(a) Our mind, emotion and will.

ii) The Word of God is able to sanctify us.

iii) James is not talking here primarily about having our sins forgiven in the past or going to Heaven in the future; but he is stating that the Word of God is able to give us deliverance from the power and pollution of sin right now.

(1) To save our mind, emotion and will.

e) Psalm 19:7-11

f) There is power in the Word of God.

- i) In order to be victorious in our Christian lives, we must stay in the Bible.
- ii) There is no way to be victorious apart from receiving the Word of God.
- g) In James 1:21, the Greek word for “receive” means “to welcome.”
  - i) This word does not mean to reach out and to take.
  - ii) We must open our hearts and welcome the Word.
    - (1) We must receive the Word of God as we would receive a friend into our house.
- h) In today’s message, we will learn that there are three ways in which to welcome the Word.

## 2) WELCOME THE WORD WITH REPENTANCE (JAMES 1:21)

- a) One of the first things we would do if a guest were coming to our home for a visit would be to clean the house.
  - i) The same is true spiritually if we want the Word of God to dwell in us richly and abound unto all fruitfulness.
- b) In James 1:21, the Greek word for “filthiness” is a medical term that refers to wax in the ear; that which keeps us from hearing.
  - i) Sometimes there are things in our spiritual ears that need to be removed so that we can hear and receive the Word.
- c) In this same passage, the word “superfluity” means “that which remains”; that which is left over.
  - i) Sometimes a person who is born again and has had his sins forgiven may still struggle with a sin from the old life.
    - (1) An example of this can be found in the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.
      - (a) John 11:44
      - (b) When Lazarus came forth, he was wrapped up in the grave clothes.
        - (i) He was wrapped so that he could hardly move.
      - (c) Lazarus had life, but he didn’t have liberty.
    - ii) The “superfluity of naughtiness” may still be clinging to a Christian; we need to get rid of that.
    - iii) Luke 15:11-32
      - (1) The prodigal son came home wearing the old, filthy clothes of the old life; and he had to lay those aside.
    - iv) Sometimes as Christians, we’re still wearing the old, filthy grave clothes.
      - (1) We’re not ready to receive the Word if we’re wearing unclean garments or have spiritual wax in our ears.
      - (2) If we want the Bible to be alive to us, then we must be willing to repent of the filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness.
  - d) One sin, no matter how small we may think it is, opens the door for other sins.
    - i) If we want to study the Bible and understand it, then we must lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness and receive the Word with meekness.

- ii) We receive the Word with repentance.
  - (1) We must have a clean heart.
- 3) RECEIVE THE WORD WITH READINESS (JAMES 1:21)
  - a) The word “meekness” in this passage means “a compliant spirit;” a spirit that’s ready to obey.
  - b) Many of us, when we study the Word, don’t get anything from it because we don’t have a meek spirit.
    - i) Meekness is not weakness.
    - ii) Moses was the meekest man on Earth.
      - (1) Numbers 12:3
      - (2) Moses was also the commander in chief of a great army.
  - c) Meekness also means teachability, trainability and controllability.
    - i) Are you teachable?
    - ii) Some people do not truly understand the Word of God because they parade what they read in the Bible past the jury of their minds.
      - (1) Rather than simply receiving the Word, they think that somehow the Bible has to agree with them.
  - d) John 7:17
    - i) Some people do not welcome God’s Word because of stubbornness.
  - e) We must receive God’s Word with meekness; we must be broken and ready to do God’s will.
- 4) RECEIVE THE WORD WITH RESPONSIVENESS (JAMES 1:22)
  - a) If we do not respond to what we claim to have received and welcomed, then we are foolish and have deceived ourselves.
    - i) Matthew 7:26
  - b) Many people have become hearers of the Word without becoming doers of the Word.
    - i) They have a notebook full of sermon notes but no intention of obeying what they hear from the pulpit.
    - ii) It has become more of a hobby: taking truth but not responding to that truth.
    - iii) This is a dangerous self-deception.
      - (1) When someone is self-deceived, he gets himself into a trap that is hard to get out of.
  - c) Someone once said that we live by what we really believe; the rest is just religious talk.
  - d) To know whether or not we’re receiving the Word, we can ask ourselves this question:
    - i) Is my knowledge of the Bible making me more like Jesus Christ?
  - e) James 1:23-24
    - i) The word for “behold” in this passage means “a casual glance.”

- ii) This is a person who glances in the mirror for just a moment, and that's all.
  - (1) There's no change; he glanced in the mirror for just a second, saw what he looked like and forgot it.
- f) James 1:25
  - i) "Looketh into" in this passage means "a careful gaze."
    - (1) This is the same word that is found in John 20:5.
      - (a) The disciple John looked intently and steadfastly into the tomb, trying to see everything he could see.
        - (i) This is how we are supposed to look into the Word.
          - 1. A steadfast, careful gaze and examination of the Word; and then, after an examination of the Word, an application of the Word.
  - g) We need to look into the Word, read it, study it and scrutinize it.
  - h) When we see what the Bible has to say to us, we are then to obey it and change our way of living.
    - i) The Word of God then becomes a blessing.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) One of the greatest truths about prayer is that the prayer that gets to Heaven is the prayer that starts in Heaven.
- b) There is also a great truth about Bible study:
  - i) The way to understand the part of the Bible we don't understand is to obey the part we do understand.
    - (1) When God reveals something to us in His Word, we need to obey it.
    - (2) When we obey what we've learned in the Bible, then we have welcomed the Word.
- c) It all starts with a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16