

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