

James Doers..... the letter of James written to scattered Jewish believers.....trials, temptations, relationships in trials. don't pull away from God or people...,... last week he wrote that we are not exempt from any of the tragedies that accompany living in this country...**what we stand up for we must stand up in**.....

Well we are also not exempt from any of the good things that come from life in this world and in our country.....

[Jeremiah 29:7](#) Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

This is part of the word of God! do it! and that is where we jump into James letter this week...

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Why do the word of God?...it is the means to the full life that Jesus speaks of In... John 10

[John 10:10](#)I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- **Full means complete... a complete or full life encompasses all the differing aspects of living... the fullness of humanity is meant to be experienced...the joyous the tragic...gain and pain, triumph and failure, love and loss....**
- **For God to give us a full life implies we have all been living ... partially empty lives....with incomplete information...inaccurate teaching...bogus instructions...confusing directions.. the troubles in life cause us to close up... shut down...run away...anesthetize...control...attack...you name the negative coping mechanisms...which empty our lives in an effort to protect our lives...we do everything but live life to the fullest!**

Listen: *PR 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, PR 3:2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.*

- *His teaching when applied will prolong your life...maybe even into old age...you know what that means? if you live to old age...you will get what old age brings...not all of it but at least some of it...aches pains, diseases, death of loved ones and peers, etc .and a full life of greater wisdom and understanding...by experiencing life you understand life...you grow in compassion, you see it's*

beauty...you change ...and mature! Like all of nature...you begin to see life as seasons! And you can find joy in the season you are experiencing! There is a fullness to all of that...

- *When you experience the bad, you grow in your appreciation of the good...you take yourself less seriously...and you allow others to be who they are...and crazily you appreciate them for their uniqueness...*
- *that is part of what the fullness of life brings along with the joys the sorrows, the ups the downs...the gains the losses...being young and getting old..it is experiencing the fullness that this life has to offer...*
- *and prosperity can happen too!...but you must do the do part of letting God word change you... by applying it!*

James1: 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

- *A mirror simply reflect what one looks like at any point in time and it is safe to say we all look in the mirror at least once a day...usually more..and we look in the mirror to check our appearances, and to correct our appearances... ..in the morning...after working out...after crying...after eating... after a shower...after a nap...before you get dressed up...after you get dressed up...before make up...after make up...when your sick... before a meeting,*
- *Mirrors do not condemn they reveal... They don't make you look good or bad..., they reveal what you look like now...I don't think there is one person in here that did not look in the mirror before coming to church this morning...and probably many of looked in the mirror again before we got out of the car, in fact some of us were looking in the mirror the whole drive in this morning...and some have used the restroom before service already and looked in the mirror again...*
- *so it is safe to say we all look in the mirror at least once a day...usually more..and we look in the mirror to check our appearances, than to correct our appearances...*
- *now no one ever looks in a mirror with out wanting to see what they look like...and secondly to make adjustments about what they see...*
- *it is a choice that was already made before they looked in the mirror! Unless we like what we see, something is getting adjusted!*

- *The mirror of God's word works similarly ...it reflects our souls condition at any point in our life...the difference is often times we see what needs adjusting...and just walk away without adjusting!*

The Bible doesn't sanitize nor minimize or exaggerate the history of the people of God and sometimes we wish it would. ...nor does it distort our image as beloved children of God...but it does reflect the accurate state of our heart condition in any circumstance...

We are presented with our sins, flaws and foibles, of everyone from Adam to Peter including the murderous lust of that man after Gods own heart, David. We have constant reminders in the Scripture of how we can act and what we are capable of during any particular time or situation...

- So the mirror of God's word is to be used as a mirror to check our souls during the many seasons of life...revealing what we look like during those seasons...with the idea that we will take that information and than do something about it.
- **Sadly, it has been believed by some Christians that information alone will result in transformation. But the entire point of study is to repent of what grieves the Lord and to be increasingly transformed to be more and more like Jesus.**
- Simply, information must lead to transformation or we have nothing but head knowledge; this is what Paul called the kind of knowledge that “puffs up” with pride rather than increasing our humility and reliance on Jesus.
- that is why James says..

JAS 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

- **a Mirror speaks to us! it reveals the full reflection of the person's face looking at it in real time.....it does not pick and choose which parts of the face it reflects... or only the parts we like or the parts we don't like...it just reflects...the reality of a face, or body or an object..**

- But we can ignore the reflection...by not acting upon what it show us...of be deceived by rejecting what it shows as not true ... or deceive ourselves by believing whatever issues it shows us...that they will take care of themselves...
- the word reflects the fullness of God's insight and but much more...his direction regarding man's issues...life with God and with others...

listen ..Just as a mirror reveals the raw material we have to work with...which has many flaws...we are the raw material God has to work with... and we have many flaws...

but this is the word...

Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- We are His raw material...his manufactured/created product...but we get flawed...we need Jesus make up...
- He has prepared good works for us and we must be prepared for the good works... *we begin to look in the mirror to examine and prepare ourselves for where we are going and what we will be doing...*
- *you see when we are going to the gym we look in the mirrior and prepares ourselves in a different way then when we are going out to a formal dinner...or the beach...or to church...or to bed..*
- The master has a plan for the masterpiece on this earth.....which the masterpiece has been formed to fit...so must be prepared to go out and do...

This is what following Jesus is all about... you will embark upon an incredible journey...and we must be dressed for the differing aspects of the journey...for it is to be a full Journey!

- we will travel farther and higher than we thought possible... proper outfits...
- we will be stretched in ways that make us uncomfortable... work outs;
- we will fail when we thought for sure we would succeed,
- we will succeed where we though we would fail
- we will have redo's when we thought we were done
- we will requalify when we thought we were disqualified
- we will sin where we thought we had overcome,
- we will meet traveling companions we never thought we would and grow to love them like we never thought we could...,
- we will love again when we thought love was lost

- we will experience death and rebirth
- we will experience more adventure, overcome more challenges,
- we will realize that no matter how much we have learned there is much more to learn..

We embrace the reality that whatever terrain I am traversing ...I will make it through...and I will conquer it...

- the mirror of God's word will equip for every good work! and when it looks like the end of the road...it's only a bend a bend in the road...
- that there is always farther to go, more to grow, and better to come, and most importantly arrival comes at the end and only our leader knows when that is.

This is one of life's greatest truths and hardest lessons! ***Key: Sometimes we choose the best-for ourselves and other times we choose second-rate or worse for ourselves**

- ***You have chosen to be here this morning, you have chosen to wear the clothes you are wearing, you have chosen the job that you are at, you have chosen to live in a certain city, you have chosen to believe in certain ideas and values, you have chosen the people you call friends, you choose where and how to spend your money, you choose who you will date and who you will marry, you choose the food you eat, you choose to love, you choose to hate, you choose to fear, you choose to have courage. All choices...good and bad.**

Now choose to look intently into the mirror of God's word..as we do into a bathroom mirror...when we are examining ourselves...

James 1:25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

- **God's laws are designed to give us freedom from our old ways of doing life...he wants to bless us...no matter your past or current situation...**
- **You have the opportunity for a make over!!**

***Perhaps it is frightening for us to realize that we have chosen to live our life as it is today...the Good News is that if you don't like what you see right now, you can CHOOSE to make things different and begin to pursue the life we were created to live.**

Well Joe.... what does the mirror say I need to wear right now...

lets start with our everyday clothes... the mirror of God's word says you need to wear this from January through December... and fine-tune it daily ...

it will lthe perfect color for you...and looks amazing on you... you will look the best in it...and it will work the best in the environment you find yourself in...and around the people you find yourself with!! They will love you in it!!

*Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of *one body* you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

Do this and you will be blessed!