

What Are You Gonna Do About It?

November 1st, 2020

Scripture: James 1:18-27

James 1:18-27:

[18] Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

[19] Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

[20] for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. [21] Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

[22] But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [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.

[24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [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.

[26] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. [27] 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.

Vs. 18 shows us that God saved us in response to his own will—not our actions, but his own will.

Romans 9:16: “So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.”

Vs. 18 shows us that God saved us THAT “we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

So how does God want his creatures to live? What does it look like to live free of sin?

Vs. 19: “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; [20] for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”



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But what is the righteousness of God?

“Conducting life by the will of God, according to his standards.”

Vs. 22: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Vss. 26-27: “If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. [27] 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.”

