

# Day Four

James 1:19-2:27

“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.

## Chapter 2

1 My brothers, **show** no partiality as you **hold** the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil **thoughts**? 5 **Listen**, my beloved brothers, **has not God chosen** those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

8 If you really **fulfill** the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever **keeps** the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### I. The Nature of \_\_\_\_\_

A. The lie is we don't need to \_\_\_\_\_ what God says (1:22, 26)

1. The lie says that as long as you go to church, you're doing fine because you're choosing to hear Truth.
2. The lie says as long as you read the Bible, you're doing better than most because you're deliberately interacting with Truth in a personal way.
3. The lie says as long as you go to counseling, you're really doing well because you're submitting to Truth by allowing someone else to critique your life.



4. The lie says as long as you *know* Truth, you're excelling because you took time to internalize it.
  5. The lie says as long as you agree with Truth, you're right where God wants you to be.
  6. And the lie says as long as you do any or all of the above, you believe Truth and are therefore keeping the commands of God and exercising faith.
- B. The lie says we don't need \_\_\_\_\_ to know and live in Truth.
- C. The lie says we can judge others based off our own criteria. (2:4)
1. The lie is hypocritical because it allows you to have high expectations for others and ignore other's expectations for you. (2:6-7)
  2. The lie is hypocritical because it allows you to have high expectations for others and ignore God's high expectations for you. (2:8-9)
  3. The lie is hypocritical because it allows you to judge others and ignore that God will judge you. (2:10)
  4. The lie is hypocritical because it allows your superficial expectations to usurp the inner expectations of God. (2:2,8)
- D. Everything the Truth does for you, the Lies do the \_\_\_\_\_.
1. The Lie is merciless (versus merciful 2:13)
  2. The Lie is enslaving (versus liberating 1:25)
  3. The Lie is impure (versus pure 1:27)
  4. The Lie is defiled (versus undefiled 1:27)
  5. The Lie is imperfect. (versus perfect 1:25)
  6. The Lie is tolerant (versus judgmental 2:13)
  7. The Lie makes us heirs of the correction. (versus heirs of the kingdom 2:5)
  8. The Lie makes us poor in faith (versus rich in faith 2:5)
  9. The Lie rewards (versus blesses) you when you live it (1:25)
  10. The Lie requires pride (versus meekness 1:21)
  11. The Lie parades spiritual destitution (versus requiring spiritual destitution 2:5)
  12. The Lie allows imperfection (versus requiring perfection 2:10-11)
  13. The Lie allows disobedience. (versus requiring obedience 1:22, 26, 27; 2:8, 12)
  14. The Lie says you're your own savior. (versus requiring a Savior 1:21)

II. The Response of Those Who \_\_\_\_\_ Truth

- A. They are quick to hear (1:19)
- B. They are slow to speak (1:19)
- C. They are slow to anger (1:19)
  1. Man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness (1:20)
  2. Those who believe Truth accomplish God's righteousness
- D. They hear the Word (1:22)
- E. They \_\_\_\_\_ the Word (1:22)
- F. They look into the perfect Law of liberty (1:25)
- G. They don't forget what they saw, but persevere in it (1:25)
- H. They bridle their tongues (1:26)
- I. They visit orphans and widows in their affliction (1:27)
- J. They keep themselves undefiled from the world (1:27)
- K. They don't show partiality (2:1)
- L. They hold their \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (2:1)
- M. They humble themselves (2:5)
- N. They love God. (2:5)
- O. They wish to fulfill his law (2:8)
- P. They \_\_\_\_\_ their neighbor as themselves (2:8)

Q. They act like they're accountable to the law of liberty (2:12)

III. The Response of Those Who Do \_\_\_\_\_ Believe Truth

- A. They are deceived (1:22, 26)
- B. They are slow to hear. (1:19)
- C. They are quick to speak. (1:19)
- D. They are quick to anger. (1:19)
- E. They don't accomplish the righteousness of God (1:20)
- F. They are \_\_\_\_\_. (1:21)
- G. They are involved in rampant wickedness (1:21)
- H. They may hear, but they don't do the word. (1:22)
- I. They don't do the word because they forget what it says about them (1:24)
- J. They think they're religious, but they don't participate in true religion. (1:26)
- K. They don't bridle their tongue. (1:26)
- L. Their religion is \_\_\_\_\_. (1:26)
- M. They are stained by the world. (1:27)
- N. They show partiality. (2:1, 9)
- O. They judge people on externals. (2:2-3)
- P. They act unloving. (2:2-3, 6)
- Q. They discriminate with a hostile spirit. (2:4)
- R. They pass judgment on others based on evil thoughts. (2:4)
- S. They \_\_\_\_\_. (2:9)
- T. They are convicted as transgressors of the law. (2:9)
- U. They receive judgment with no mercy. (2:13)
- V. And the real problem is that it's not an all-or-nothing situation.

1. It's very easy to look at people who are far worse than us, people who have most of these sinful habits in their lives, and label them. That label may be true, but it's too convenient for us to see them in \_\_\_\_\_ category, and because we're so different than they, we believe that we're in another category all together.
2. But it's not a question of whether we're in the second category or the first. It's a question of how much time we spend in each category.
3. We all spend time every day in the category of people who \_\_\_\_\_ believe Truth. Any time we are unloving or angry or judge people on external things or sin in any way, we chose to call God a liar and we fall into this category.
4. God doesn't give us this passage to break the world into two groups and figure out where everyone else lands. God gave us this passage to understand that we all choose not to believe God from time to time. And that should scare us. And that reality should drive us to repentance. That should encourage us to believe His Truth and live accordingly.
5. And when we slip back into disbelief, we need to repeat the process. And we should be doing this over and over again our whole lives.
6. It's a false religion that preaches that we will all be perfect this side of Heaven. That religion encourages us to judge ourselves too lightly and everyone else too harshly. Or it plunges us into the fear that because we're not \_\_\_\_\_ we must not have a relationship with God.
7. It's false religion that preaches that because we're saved we're always going to be in the "believing God" category. That religion allows us to live delusional, thinking that everything we do is motivated by genuine faith in God's Word when in fact there are many things in our lives that require our repentance.