

The Letter of James
Bible Study Session 04
James 1:19-27

Greek NT

19 Ἴστε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί· ἔστω δὲ πᾶς ἄνθρωπος ταχύς εἰς τὸ ἀκοῦσαι, βραδύς εἰς τὸ λαλῆσαι, βραδύς εἰς ὀργήν· 20 ὀργὴ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δικαιοσύνην θεοῦ οὐκ ἐργάζεται. 21 διὸ ἀποθέμενοι πᾶσαν ῥυπαρίαν καὶ περισσεῖαν κακίας ἐν πραΰτητι, δέξασθε τὸν ἔμφυτον λόγον τὸν δυνάμενον σῶσαι τὰς ψυχὰς ὑμῶν.

22 Γίνεσθε δὲ ποιηταὶ λόγου καὶ μὴ μόνον ἀκροαταὶ παραλογιζόμενοι ἑαυτοῦς. 23 ὅτι εἴ τις ἀκροατὴς λόγου ἐστὶν καὶ οὐ ποιητὴς, οὗτος ἔοικεν ἀνδρὶ κατανοοῦντι τὸ πρόσωπον τῆς γενέσεως αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐσόπτρῳ· 24 κατενόησεν γὰρ ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀπελήλυθεν καὶ ἐυθέως ἐπέλαθετο ὅποιος ἦν. 25 ὁ δὲ παρακύψας εἰς νόμον τέλειον τὸν τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ παραμείνας, οὐκ ἀκροατὴς ἐπιλησμονῆς γενόμενος ἀλλὰ ποιητὴς ἔργου, οὗτος μακάριος ἐν τῇ ποιήσει αὐτοῦ ἔσται.

26 Εἴ τις δοκεῖ θρησκὸς εἶναι μὴ χαλιναγωγῶν γλῶσσαν αὐτοῦ ἀλλὰ ἀπατῶν καρδίαν αὐτοῦ, τούτου μάταιος ἡ θρησκεία. 27 θρησκεία καθαρὰ καὶ ἀμίαντος παρὰ τῷ θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ αὕτη ἐστίν, ἐπισκέπτεσθαι ὀρφανοὺς καὶ χήρας ἐν τῇ θλίψει αὐτῶν, ἄσπιλον ἑαυτὸν τηρεῖν ἀπὸ τοῦ κόσμου.

Elberfelder

19 Ihr wißt [doch], meine geliebten Brüder: Jeder Mensch sei schnell zum Hören, langsam zum Reden, langsam zum Zorn. 20 Denn eines Mannes Zorn wirkt nicht Gottes Gerechtigkeit. 21 Deshalb legt ab alle Unsauberkeit und all die viele Schlechtigkeit, und nehmt das eingepflanzte Wort mit Sanftmut auf, das eure Seelen zu erretten vermag.

22 Seid aber Täter des Wortes und nicht allein Hörer, die sich selbst betrügen. 23 Denn wenn jemand ein Hörer des Wortes ist und nicht ein Täter, der gleicht einem Mann, der sein natürliches Angesicht in einem Spiegel betrachtet. 24 Denn er hat sich selbst betrachtet und ist weggegangen, und er hat sogleich vergessen, wie er beschaffen war. 25 Wer aber in das vollkommene Gesetz der Freiheit hineingeschaut und dabei geblieben ist, indem er nicht ein vergeßlicher Hörer, sondern ein Täter des Werkes ist, der wird in seinem Tun glücklich sein.

26 Wenn jemand meint, er diene Gott, und zügelt nicht seine Zunge, sondern betrügt sein Herz, dessen Gottesdienst ist vergeblich. 27 Ein reiner und unbefleckter Gottesdienst vor Gott und dem Vater ist dieser: Waisen und Witwen in ihrer Drangsal zu besuchen, sich selbst von der Welt unbefleckt zu erhalten.

NRSV

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. 21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. 27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

NLT

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The Study of the Text:¹

Context of our passage:

STRUCTURAL OUTLINE OF TEXT

¹With each study we will ask two basic questions. First, what was the most likely meaning that the first readers of this text understood? This is called the 'historical meaning' of the text. That must be determined, because it becomes the foundation for the second question, "What does the text mean to us today?" For any applicational meaning of the text for modern life to be valid it must grow out of the historical meaning of the text. Otherwise, the perceived meaning becomes false and easily leads to wrong belief. See <http://cranfordville.com/JasLess04.html> for a detailed study.

