

God's Word Makes People Free

James 1:22-25

22 Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. 23 If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, 24 studies his features, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 However, the person who continues to study God's perfect teachings that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's teachings say. GWT

There are many people who promise liberty. Follow me they say and you will be free . . . Free from what ought to be the question we should ask. Peter refers to a group in his day that promised liberty but they could not deliver it.

2 Peter 2:18-19 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. NKJV

So there is that danger. A danger that we might follow after liberty only to find it leads to bondage.

Again Peter says that we need to be careful not to use the liberty we have not as a freedom to sin and rebel against God. 1 Peter 2:16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. NIV

So according to James the perfect law of liberty sets people really free. In what way does the Word of God give us freedom.

I. Freedom from the Bondage of Sin

- A. It is the instrument that the Spirit of God uses to regenerate us.
 - 1. Eph 6:17 Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God
 - 2. James 1:18 "Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth."
 - 3. 1 Peter 1:23 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, NKJV
 - 4. Rom 1:16 for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, NKJV

II. Freedom from Confusion

- A. There is such confusion today as how to live, how to act, what to do or not do.
- B. Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. NKJV
- C. Ps 19:8-11 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the

LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. NKJV

- D. Prov 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, NKJV
- E. Now some say, If God would just appear to me, then I would know for sure.
 - 1. 2 Peter 1:19 So we are even more confident of the message proclaimed by the prophets. You will do well to pay attention to it, because it is like a lamp shining in a dark place TEV
 - 2. But listen to what Peter says in the verses just before this.
 - 3. 2 Peter 1:16-18 16 We have not depended on made-up stories in making known to you the mighty coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. With our own eyes we saw his greatness. 17 We were there when he was given honor and glory by God the Father, when the voice came to him from the Supreme Glory, saying, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased!" 18 We ourselves heard this voice coming from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. TEV
 - 4. You see Peter who saw the Lord glorified before him said that the Word of God is more sure than a vision.

III. Freedom from Filthiness (sanctification)

- A. Jesus prayed to the Father "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17 NKJV
- B. The Word of God is the cleanser God uses to keep us clean in our daily lives.
 - 1. Eph 5:25-28 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. NKJV
 - 2. But how can He do that if we never apply the Word.
 - 3. If we only get a few verses every week or two or sometimes once a month.
 - 4. That is the problem with God's people, the reason they are not free from filthiness. They do not use the Word.

This Wednesday Christians and non-Christians across America will celebrate the birth of our nation in freedom. But the sad part is that many are not really free. They are in bondage to sin. Christians cannot be in bondage to sin but they may very well not be really free. James says the word of God brings liberty, it is the law of liberty.

How free are you today.

Are you willing to submit to God and His Word to make you what you need to be?