**The Looking Glass (Part 3): Kinda Christian**

James 1:26-27

Instructions

• Will you take your Bibles and turn to James 1:26-27?

• Please search the Scriptures with us. We’re in the New Testament, which is in the last quarter of the Bible. Don’t be afraid to use your index.

• If you don’t have a Bible but have a smartphone, you can download the Y-O-U Version Bible App. Once you download it, you can go to the “More” tab, tap “Events,” and find Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and you can see the Scripture, notes, quotes, and references.

Context

In this section of James’s Epistle, James, Jesus’ brother, shifts from instructions about life’s difficulties to pragmatic thoughts on the full implications of faith in Jesus. James reminds us a wise person will learn to control anger and eliminate one of the most common sources of hateful speech. In v. 26, James unpacks the remaining command from v. 19—that we must be “slow to speak.”

Bible Verse

**James 1:26-27 CSB**

If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, his religion is useless and he deceives himself.

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Big Idea

**Kinda Christian is not Christianity!**

1. **Test #1: *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (v. 26)**
2. **Test #2: *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* for *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* and *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (v. 27a)**

*“And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succors the orphans and widows, and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds, and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need.” Justin Martyr, The First Apology of Justin*

*“But mark those who have strange opinions concerning the grace of Jesus Christ which has come to us, and see how contrary they are to the mind of God. For love they have no care, none for the widow, none for the orphan, none for the distressed, none for the afflicted, none for the prisoner, or for him released from prison, none for the hungry or thirsty.” Ignatius, The Apostolic Fathers*

*Wilberforce, “This principle of the love of God fills the true Christian with the desire of promoting the temporal welfare of all around him and still more with pity and love as he is anxious for their spiritual happiness. Indifference, then, to this principle is one of the surest signs of a low or declining state of true religion.”*

1. **Test #3. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* with the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (v. 27b)**

*Wilberforce, “If the world observes that they have the same eagerness in the pursuit of wealth and ambition, the same vain taste for pretentiousness and display, the same ungoverned tempers, which are found in the generality of mankind-then it will treat with contempt their pretense to be superior or sanctity and indifferent to worldly things. Then such a soul will become hardened in its prejudices against the only way that God has provided for our escape of the wrath to come and out attainment in eternal happiness.”*

Pray

“Dear Jesus, I confess I am a sinner and deserve judgment and hell, but I believe You love, came to this earth for me, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for my sins. I believe God raised you from the dead to forgive me. Please forgive me, come into my life, and grant me eternal life in You name. Help me to glorify you in all I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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A Prayer before Hearing Scripture

O Sovereign Lord Christ Jesus, the co-eternal Word of the eternal Father, who was made in all things like as we are, but without sin, for the salvation of our race; who has sent forth your holy disciples and apostles to proclaim and teach the Gospel of your kingdom, and to heal all disease, all sickness among your people, be pleased now, O Lord, to send forth your light and your truth. Enlighten the eyes of our minds, that we may understand your divine oracles. Fit us to become hearers, and not only hearers, but doers of your Word, so that we, becoming fruitful, and yielding good fruit from thirty to a hundredfold, may be deemed worthy of the kingdom of heaven.