

Questions to Consider — Lesson 8 — “The Test of True Religion” — James 1:26-27

1. We have now completed chapter one. Read over James 1 and write down one truth that God has impressed upon on you.
2. Make two columns. Label the left column “True religion” and the right “Vain religion.” (a) According to James chapter one, what things validate true religion and what things validate vain religion? Put them in the proper columns. (b) After looking over these two columns, how would you evaluate your own religion—true or vain?
3. Memorize James 1:26-27.
4. (a) What outward manifestations of religion were the rulers of Sodom and the people of Gomorrah practicing in Isaiah 1:10-17? (b) What does God say about those works? (c) What does He say is “true religion?” (d) Does James say the same thing?
5. (a) According to Zechariah 7:8-14, what happens when we refuse to be obedient in the area of being “truly” religious? (b) What lessons can you glean for your own life?
6. Read Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24. (a) What do these verses say about Demas? (b) Now read 2 Timothy 4:10 to see what happened to Demas. (c) What warning(s) do these Scriptures send to you and me? (d) How does this coincide with James 1:27? (e) Do you think Demas was truly redeemed? Why or why not?
7. Is there someone in your neighborhood or church that you should be “visiting?” Ask God for wisdom and discernment on how you might best demonstrate His love to that person.
8. (a) What activities are you involved in that are merely external with no inner spiritual significance? (b) Which activities actually show true religion? (Examples: visiting the fatherless and widows, keeping your tongue bridled, and keeping yourself unspotted from the world.) (c) What should be added and subtracted from your weekly round of “religious” activities in order to align yourself with God’s priorities?
9. Write a prayer request for either how you might better minister to those in “affliction” or how you might keep yourself “unspotted from this world.”