

Series – Part 6: How to Live as a Christian:

Shine the Implanted Word!

James 1:19-21 ESV

2nd Sunday After Pentecost / 1st After Trinity – 2013

Sunday, June 2 at 8:00 & 10:45; Monday, June 3 at 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, last week we learned that God took action to give us spiritual birth thru the Word of Truth. In doing so, God made us “a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” That means we are saved, we belong to Him, and we live for Him – so we say “yes” to His will for our lives!

Now, *continuing in James chapter 1*, God is calling us to go **beyond knowledge to action** by living in harmony with His Word which He has implanted within every believer.

Beginning now *through chapter 3* our faith will be tested in various ways; first, how will we respond to God’s Word – with no change **OR** by shining that Word as we live according to it?

1. **We Know But Do We Do:** ^{19a} [You] **Know this, my beloved brothers: [but]...** // Many of us know much of God’s Word *BUT do we do it?*
 - a. The LORD said to Moses: “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD” (Lev. 27:30 NIV), *but some hold back all or part of the tithe for themselves!*
 - b. Jesus said: “...love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31 ESV), *but some tend to love themselves more than they love their neighbors!*

2. **God’s Instruction Is Clear:** We know it as the “Q” Verse: ^{19b} “...let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...” //
 - a. We can easily be drawn into the wrong pattern: **Slow to hear** – *jumping to the wrong conclusion;* **quick to speak** – *speaking without thinking it through;* and **quick to anger** – *which is the opposite of God’s will for our lives.*
 - b. God’s ways honor Him and bless us: **Quick to hear** – *think about it;* **slow to speak** – *choose our words carefully;* **slow to anger** – these passages come to mind:
 - i. “...God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God...” (Rom 8:28 NAS) So a proper view of the situation will not result in anger but in peace; we may not like or understand a situation, but we – as believers – should know that God is working it together for our good!
 - ii. “...in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1Th 5:18 NAS) Again, *regardless of our opinion*, God is working His will for us who are in Christ, so we can be thankful rather than angry.
 - iii. “Never take your own revenge... for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” (Rom 12:19 NAS) The LORD’s part is to avenge, our part is to forgive; so sinful anger has no place in the lives of God’s forgiven children!

3. **God Tells Us Why to be Quick, Slow, and Slow:** ²⁰ **for the anger of man does not produce** [lit. “work”] **the righteousness of God.** // Think of *one action resulting in a particular reaction*; God took action to make us righteous in His sight through faith in Jesus (Rom. 3:22; 2 Cor. 5:21), our proper reaction is that we live according to who we are in Christ! Sinful anger and God’s righteousness are incompatible:
- “God...calls and empowers [believers] to live in His righteousness instead of the world’s pattern.” (LSB, 2136)
 - ^{ESV} **Romans 6:12** “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”
4. **Get Rid of the Sin:** ^{21a} **“Therefore** [for that reason, because it does not work the righteousness of God] **put away** [like removing a garment: put off, lay aside] **all filthiness and rampant** [abundant] **wickedness** [thus all morally bad behavior]...” // “Before the Word can be effectively welcomed into [our] lives, the hindering sins must be dealt with.”¹ Jesus said: “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.” (Mat 5:29 ESV)

¹ D. Edmond Heibert, *James* (Winona Lake, Indiana: BHM Books, 1979 [Revised Edition, 1992]), p. 115.

^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:1** “...let us...lay aside every...sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...”

5. **Receive the Word:** ^{21b} **“...and receive with meekness** [humility] **the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.** // We are sinners who cannot save ourselves, so *God has acted on our behalf to save us in Christ!* Now, **+**humbled by God’s great love, **+**empowered by God’s Spirit, and **+**daily striving to put aside all sin, we welcome an ever-increasing influence of the Word into our daily lives!

Conclusion: **Let’s remember and apply God’s Word:**

- As believers, *knowing God’s Word*, we should ____ it!
- Anger is not fitting for those who are righteous in Christ, so let us live the “____” Verse.
- Are *sin* and *the Implanted Word* strongly opposed to each other? Yes No

Since we have God’s eternal blessings in Christ, *let us put off all sin and shine the Implanted Word!*

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**