



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

---

**Sunday – June 18, 2023**

## **Heart to Heart...**

*"If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (James 1:26-27)* Let's do a brief teaching about these two verses.

This word translated "*religion*" in these two verses is the Greek word "*threskia*." Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says the word signifies "*religion*" in the external aspects. In other words, it is the external religious ceremonial service. This word carries the idea of religious worship. This little word is translated such in Colossians 2:18: ***"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and in the worship of the angels..."*** The word is translated "*worship*" in this verse. This one word is translated into our English language as "*worship*."

Let's notice a few things that James says. If anyone thinks themselves as a religious person, a worshipper of God, they must "*bridle their own tongue*." If one does not bridle their tongue, it makes their religion, their worship worthless! They simply are deceived in their own heart. They claim to be a God-worshipper while at the same time they are speaking in such a way as to show that they are truly NOT bound to God. The worship of God is making no difference in their daily living!

Secondly, James tells us that "*pure and undefiled religion*" (worship) has to do with caring for those who are in distress. Undefiled "*worship*" is caring for widows and orphans. To care for the distressed shows we truly are bound to God. God is always concerned with those who hurt and need our help.

Then James ends speaking “*pure religion (worship)*” is keeping oneself “*unstained*” by the world. We should never allow the world around us to determine values and actions. Too many are allowing the influences around us to determine their thinking.

Real *religion*” or “*worship*” is getting our tongues under control, helping those in distress and keep the world and their ideas away from us. Our relationship to God is about life, His life being shown in our lives. Think about it!!!

*Brent*