



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 27:05:2009

Website: www.victoriouschristianministry.org

STUDY 18: PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION

James 1:27

James 1:27 pointed out that followers of true religion are distinguishable by:

- (i) **Visitation to the fatherless and widows, and**
- (ii) **Lives That are unspotted from the world**

Our last two studies concentrated on visitation, and today we turn our attention to the second aspect.

1. Destructive Impact of Impure Religion

A number of destructive impacts come through the practice of impure religion including:

1. Contamination, confusion and misguiding through setting of wrong examples (I Kings 13:1-31; Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
2. It establishes a pattern which if others try to emulate could make mistake that ends them in serious errors and dangers
3. Cause the name of the Lord to be blasphemed (2 Samuel 12:14; Romans 2:23,24)
4. Cause love of many to wax cold (Matt 24:12,13)
5. Discredit the course of Christ (Ecclesiastes 10:1)
6. Weakens the faith and commitment of believers
7. Cause backsliding and disillusionment
8. Opening doorways for demonic attacks (Ecclesiastes 10:8)
9. It raises questions and doubts in the minds of others that undermine effectiveness and distracts from the course.
10. Cause skepticism and distrust
11. Makes preaching and salvation of souls harder
12. Putting off prospective converts and thereby increasing the population of hell.

2. Defilement and Pollution of Religion

The effects of the fall of man and the depravity of sin are manifested through:

- ⇒ Darkened understanding (Ephesians 4:18; I Corinthians 2:14).
- ⇒ Deceitful and desperately wicked heart (Jeremiah 17:9).
- ⇒ Defilement of mind and conscience (Titus 1:15).
- ⇒ Enslavement of will (Romans 7:18).
- ⇒ Corruption of moral nature (Romans 8:8; Galatians 5:16-21)

These in turn has contributed to man's tendency to defile and pollute religion (Ecclesiastes 7:29) often through:

1. Philosophies of Life (Colossians 2:8)
2. Pursuits (Pressures and Preoccupations) In Life (Ecclesiastes 2:1-23)

Most of man's pursuit in life are driven / motivated by:

- Pride and Self Glory
- Personal Success

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- Making a Name For Self
- Making Money
- Emulation

3. Pleasures of Life (I Timothy 5:6; Ezekiel 16:49)

3. Distinctives of Pure Religion

The Bible emphasises the centrality of purity of life as a condition for the true worship of God (Psalms 24:4,73:1; Matthew 5:8). God, heaven and the angels are all holy. God is of a purer eyes than to behold iniquity (Habakkuk 1:13). These imply that holiness (i.e. purity of heart and life) is not optional but mandatory for every aspirant of heaven (Hebrews 12:14; I John 3:3; Isaiah 35:8; I Peter 1:16-17; Luke 1:71-75; Hebrews 3:1). The distinctives of pure religion are attained through.

1. **Doctrines** (Proverbs 30:5,6; Revelations 22:18,19).

2. **Devotion** (Disciplines)

The experience of holiness is not difficult to obtain. Jesus Christ prayed and paid the price for its attainment by the believer through: .

(a) **Consecration** (Psalms 118:27; Romans 12:1; Genesis 22:11-12; Ruth 1:8,14-17; Ephesians 5:25,26; Philippians 2:7, 3:8; Matthew 16:24-25; Mark 10:21; Psalms 57:7). Self need to be dethroned / crucified for Christ to be enthroned in our life through the process of consecration. One must consecrate one's life to the Lord and seek His face until He rains righteousness upon him / her.

(b) **Faith** (Acts 26:18; Jeremiah 32:17, 1:12; Luke 1:37; Hebrews 11:6, 10:23; Romans 9:30,32,10:17). Faith is absolute dependence on God and His Word. Christian experiences and other blessings are received from God through faith in answer to prayers.

(c) **Prayer** (Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1; I Thessalonians 5:17; I Peter 4:7). We are in an age of great activity, much hurry, bustle and excitement in life such that it is easy to lose the value of prayers for receiving and retaining the experience of holiness.

3. **Discipleship**

(a) God Centred approach (Before God and the Father)

(b) Compliance With God's Word

(c) Practical Applications

(d) Purity from the World

4. **Diligence**

5. **Determination** (Decision)

4. Distinction Through Pure Religion

1. Divine Partnership (Psalms 4:3)

2. Divine Power (I Timothy 3:16)

3. Divine Progress (Job 17:9; Proverbs 14:34)