

4. What does James tell us about doing or applying God's Word? What aspects of the mirror illustration are most significant to you?

True Religion James 1:19-27

5. What are James' three marks of true religion? What do you find striking about his choice of these three?

Gary Inrig

February 1, 2009

It is not only disappointing but can be deadly to rely on something that turns out to be useless.

Living It Out

1. James is concerned about worthless religion, not just false religion. The Greek word can be translated with English words such as "empty, futile, useless." What is the difference between false religion and worthless religion?

I. True religion welcomes God's Word humbly (verses 19-21)

2. Obviously, James makes it clear that understanding this passage is far from enough. What has God shown you in his Word that you need to put into practice?

3. James 1:27 is a call to action. What are some practical ways our small group can "look after" the kinds of people represented by "widows and orphans"?

II. True religion obeys God's Word carefully (verses 22-25)

Looking Ahead

To prepare for next week, study James 2:1-13. What does the passage teach about showing partiality? How do we fulfill the "royal law"?

