

Faith and Obedience

Wednesday Gathering; Week of Sunday, July 12, 2020; Richie Pendred

Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ is anchored to the Law of Liberty so that we might remain steadfast under trials and obedient, by being both hearers of the Word as well as doers of the Word, specifically in loving the brethren, bridling the tongue, and rejecting the world, all for God's glory!

I. The Insufficiency of Our Own Efforts – Read James 1:19-21

- A. As we think about the overall structure of these verses, how does James 1:19-21 fit in with the rest of James chapter 1? Specifically, how do you read James 1:19-21 in light of trials?
- B. James calls believers to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Of these three areas, which do you tend to struggle with the most? In which area would you like to excel still more?
- C. How would you interpret verse 20? What is the connection between the insufficiency of man to produce the righteousness of God and the implanted Word which is able to save his soul?
- D. In verse 21, James speaks of repenting of sin, receiving the Word of truth, and resting in our salvation. What does it look like to practically live out these aspects of the Christian faith?

II. The Anatomy of Obedience – Read James 1:22-25

- A. Compare the two illustrations from verses 23-25. What observations do you make about the man and the mirror and the man who looks into the Law of Liberty? To which do you tend to relate?
- B. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What are some similar thoughts found in Jesus' teaching that parallel James 1:22-25? What is the significance of the house's foundation in light of the trials that come?
- C. In what ways are you prone to be a hearer of the Word, but not a doer? How would you like to grow in hearing the Word and practically living out what God has commanded?

III. The Specifics of Pure Religion – Read James 1:26-27

- A. How does the truth of the implanted Word in the life of the believer empower us to press on toward greater faithfulness and godly obedience? How is this connected to the Law of Liberty?
- B. Where are you prone to struggle with partiality in the church? What are some ways you can grow in cultivating godly relationships with people you don't know very well here at Proclamation?
- C. What does it look like to bridle our tongues consistently? In what ways do you struggle with controlling your speech? What are the potential dangers of an unbridled tongue in the church?
- D. In ways are you prone to be lured in by the world? How have you anchored yourself against the many pitfalls of this world? Why is it so important for us to reject the world ferociously?