

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

James 1:16-27

Sunday, February 2, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Name three ways people can be deceived today.

1. Teaching and thinking that God’s commands and warnings in the Bible are outdated and no longer apply to people today.

2. Teaching and thinking that it does not matter what you believe or do because everyone is going to heaven anyway.

3. Teaching and thinking that what the majority wants or the minority wants or the world wants with regard to what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior is more important than what God wants.

2. Name three of God’s perfect gifts to you and our world.

1. God’s Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin and grant us eternal life.

2. The Word of truth, the Bible, to teach us and guide us into truth and reality.

3. The Holy Spirit to indwell us and empower us and fill us with God’s love.

Of course, Jesus, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit do more for us and our world than listed above. God has given us many perfect gifts, so there can be many answers.

3. How can praying and resolving to be quick to listen and slow to speak help prevent us from speaking quickly in anger?

We may better understand both the intent and the words spoken by others so we do not get angry quickly, but continue to talk in loving ways that seek peace and understanding on the way to everyone learning the truth and accepting the truth and what is right.

4. How can we best nurture the growth of God's implanted word in our hearts and minds?

We can pray and read the Bible, trusting that God and His Word are true. We can study to understand and apply to our lives and ways of living what the Bible says. We can obey all of the Bible up to the limit of our understanding and pray for more understanding so we can grow and mature spiritually. We can memorize parts of the Bible. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to help us live godly according to the Bible's teachings. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible teaches in every situation.

5. What does James say is pure and undefiled religion? How might someone misunderstand his teaching on this?

Pure and undefiled religion is caring for orphans and widows in their distress and consciously doing so before God the Father as we prayerfully seek His guidance, means, and ways to help them. Someone can misunderstand this teaching and think that all they need to do to please God and go to heaven is to help needy people, rather than really loving, knowing, trusting, following, and developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior that leads us to caring for orphans, widows, and others in need.

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