

An Enduring Legacy: The Word of God According to James

James 1:18-25

I. What do we know about the word of God?

- A. It is eternal: Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:89; 1 Peter 1:23
- B. It was spoken: By God- Genesis 1:2-7; Hebrews 1:1,2 By men- “Hear the Word of the Lord”
- C. It was manifested in the Son: John 1:1-4; Revelation 19:13
- D. It is living: Hebrews 4:12
- E. It is cleansing: Titus 3:5; Ephesians 5:26
- F. It is nourishing: 1 Peter 2:2

II. What does James teach us about the Word?

A. It gives birth to new life [Verse 18; Compare with verse 15; Compare with 1 Peter 1:3,23];

- a. It is a tool of God’s will [Verse 18a; See John 1:13]
- b. It is true [*word of truth*]
- c. It distinguishes believers from non-believers [*first fruits*] [Verse 18b; see 1 Peter 2:9; Jeremiah 2:3]

B. It is meant to be absorbed [Verses 19,20]

- a. It is meant to be used as our response to everything [See Proverbs 10:19; 17:27; Proverbs 16:32; Eccl 7:9]
- b. It is squelched by anger [Matthew 5:22, Ephesians 4:26,27]

C. It is near you [Verse 21]

- a. It is not meant to coexist with things that are unlike it [*put away*] [See 1 Peter 2:1; Ephesians 4:20-24]
- b. It is humbling to us [in humility]
- c. It is near to us [implanted; *past tense*; inborn [i.e. in born, See Ecclesiastes 3:11] or established [previously heard, See Romans

10:14,15, Deuteronomy 30:11-14] See also Ephesians 1:13, 1 Peter 1:22]

- d. It is able to save souls [response to God's grace is salvific]

D. It is meant to be acted upon [Verses 22-25]

- a. It is demonstrated in our actions [*become; imperative mood*] [Verse 22]
- b. It is meant to be done and not merely heard [See Matthew 13:4-9; See Matthew 7:21] [Verse 23]
- c. It is reflective if we allow it to be [focus word, intently] [Verse 24,25]
- d. Obedience to it carries a blessing [Verse 25d]