

## Doers of the Word

### Introduction and Review

- Christians have suffered in the past & continue to suffer today because of their faith in Jesus = trials (v. 1-2).
- These trials come in various forms & are designed to develop complete godly character in the Christian. The Christian needs wisdom & must genuinely ask God for it in prayer (v. 5-8).
- Christians face financial difficulties in trials (v. 9-11).
- Christians face temptations in trials (v. 12-15).
- Christians experience God's goodness in trials (v. 16-18).

### I. Anger in Trials (v. 19-21)

People are angry: loss of income, homes, medical coverage, education; families, citizens, countries at war. Survival & selfishness dominate...

#### A. Natural human anger does not please God (v. 20)

*Uncontrolled outbursts of anger are natural & normal during times of trials. Natural anger can never produce righteousness (behavior that is pleasing to God) in either the angry person or the recipient of that anger. Natural anger leads to harm & regret for things said & done (Pr. 29:22).*

#### B. How the Christian controls natural anger (v. 19, 21)

**Develop** good listening skills; take time to seriously consider what people say. **Resist** the temptation of quick judgments – assuming you already know what a person is thinking, going to say or do. **Resist** the temptation to respond with words from angry emotions (Pr. 17:27-28). The righteousness of God must be priority (Mt. 6:33). Get rid of those evil influences & habits that cause you to respond in anger when in trials; agree with the word of God (v. 21). Kindness & forgiveness is the remedy to anger (Eph. 4:25-32).

### II. Obedience in Trials (v. 22-25)

**2 groups of people: both are exposed to BS, teaching, sermons, etc**

#### A. Hearers of the word (v. 22b-24)

*Some people are so consumed by their problems that they are not affected by exposure to the word of God. They can see their sin in bible study, sermon, etc. & still justify their*

*own lifestyle & responses. Because there is no conviction, repentance or change, this person is **deceived**; assuming that knowledge w/o obedience will please God – false believers. You cannot continue to have rage, profanity & abusive speech & assume that you are pleasing God because you study your bible & faithfully attend church – **DECEIVED! Many false believers love their sin & good preaching or teaching (Mk. 6:20).***

#### B. Doers of the word (v. 25)

*True Christians (even during times of trial) can see their sins when exposed to the word of God, repent & change. They are determined to please God regardless of the level of personal pain they are experiencing – “doer who acts”.*

***God promises that he will be blessed in his obedience!***

### III. True Christianity in Trials (v. 26-27)

#### A. Control of one's mouth (v. 26)

*The mouth reveals the contents of the heart (thoughts, will, emotions – Mt. 15:19). If you cannot or will not control your mouth (anger, ungodly words), then you are deceived & not a true Christian.*

#### B. Control of one's body (v. 27b)

*Another test of true Christianity is the willingness to give up the old, ungodly lifestyle – even those things that have the appearance of evil (1Th. 5:22). Be alert!*

#### C. Concern for the helpless (v. 27a)

*A final test of genuine Christianity is providing help to those who are weak, helpless & overlooked in society. We must demonstrate our love for God & neighbor (Mt. 22:37-40).*

**ILL:** How do you determine if an apple is rotten inside, even if it looks good outside? Squeeze the apple. Apples that are beginning to rot will give way & open up, revealing the decay inside.

**APPL:** The same is true with us spiritually. Trials & troubles in life bring pressure to squeeze us & reveals what's truly inside. If darkness, vileness & evil dominate the heart, it will be revealed thru ungodly words & responses to other people. But if the heart has been converted & is clean, then godly words & responses come forth.

## CONCLUSION

My question for everyone is, “What happens to you when you get squeezed in the trials of life?” What come out of your mouth? What your actions in response? My brothers & sisters no true Christian is rotten inside; no Christian heart is rotten. The Holy Spirit gave us a new heart when we were converted or born again; we are a new creation in Christ (2Co. 5:17). The true Christian knows that we still battle, struggle & wrestle with sin, but we are no longer slaves to sin and our mouths are no longer slaves to sin. And even when God reveals remnants of sin in us during times of trial through our words & action, we pray & ask God for a clean heart free from bitterness, blame, worry, fear or any other ungodly emotion. We want to holy as God is holy. We want to be true followers of Christ; serving Him with a clear conscience & joy; loving life & having good days. We want to be “doers of the word”!

If you are not a Christian, you can become a “doer of the word” today. If you would only believe that Jesus came into this world, lived & died for your sins. Will you ask Him to save you today? Will you trust Him with your future...

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