

"Prince or Pretender"
James 1:26, 27
April 27, 2014

Here's what James means when he uses the word "religion". Religion is the outward expression of something that has happened internally.

Our text describes two types of religion:

1. Worthless religion
2. Pure religion

Worthless religion (v.26)

Is the man in verse 26 a prince or a pretender?

Verse 26 reveals that he is a pretender.

How do we know that?

Because verse 26 says, "he does not bridle his tongue

The word "bridle" speaks of harnessing an animal.

Our salvation includes:

1. Freedom from the penalty of sin.
2. Freedom from the power of sin.
3. Freedom from the presence of sin.

Pure religion v.27)

The word "pure" in verse 27 speaks of that which is clean and refers to our motives. The word "undefiled" means to be without stain.

Two ways pure religion is manifested to others:

Ministry to those in need (v.27)

"Orphans and widows" were the most helpless people in Jewish society during that time and their affliction was great.

The word "visit" means to care for, to exercise oversight, to help.

A separated life (v.27)

The word "unstained" means to not be polluted.

**Are you a prince or a pretender?
Is your religion worthless or pure?**