If Anyone ... Thinks He Is Religious – Part 1

Jas. 1:26-27

Introduction:
A. Multitudes claim to be religious, but not all please God. (Cf. Acts 17:22)
B. James makes several recommendations for anyone thinking himself to be religious.

Discussion:
I. Let Him Bridle His Tongue (1:26)
A. An unbridled tongue is not only restrained, but properly directed.
B. An unbridled tongue does much damage (3:1-12)
C. An unbridled tongue has many avenues: Lying, gossip, tattling, flattery, etc.

II. Let Him Practice Pure Religion.
A. An example to vain religion is unbridled tongue (1:26).
B. Two examples of pure religion are:

III. Let Him Endure Temptation (1:12)
A. Must keep proper frame of mind (vv. 2, 3,8)
B. Must keep an unwavering faith (v. 6)
C. Must recognize the source of temptation (v. 13-15).

IV. Let Him Respect God’s Word.
A. Must receive it with meekness (1:21)
   1. Because of what it is - God’s word (2 Thess. 2:13)
   2. Because of what it is able to do (1:21; Acts 20:32)
B. Must be doers of the word (1:22-25).

V. Let Him Be Impartial (2:1-13).
B. Must be careful lest outward appearance become sole measuring device.

VI. Let Him Couple His Faith with His Works.
A. Faith without works is dead (2:14-16).
B. Faith without works is incomplete (2:18-22; cf. Acts 8:37,38)
C. Faith without works cannot justify one. (2:23-26; cf. “Faith only ... wholesome doctrine”)

Conclusion:
A. If we claim to be religious let us back it up with proper attitudes and conduct.
B. If you think you are religious, have you obeyed the Lord to become a Christian?