The Law Of Liberty
James 1:21-25

Introduction:

A. Are Christians under law of any kind?
   1. Some think not, based on misunderstanding of certain scriptures. (John 1:17; Rom. 6:14-15).
   2. Sin is tied to law — if no law then no sin (1 John 3:4; cf. Matt. 7:23; 2 Thess. 2:7 ASV).
B. Text supplies important information about the law governing Christians.

Discussion:

I. The Law Identified.
   A. “His own will” expressed in “the word of truth.” (V. 18).
   B. “The word” (vv. 22, 23) — The word of apostolic preaching. (Rom. 10:8; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
   C. “The law of Christ” (cf. Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 9:21) — rather than “law of Moses.” (Gal. 5:1-4).

II. The Law Described.
   A. It is “the perfect law.”
      2. Cannot improve:
         a. Its quality.
         b. Its contents.
         c. Its provisions.
   B. It is “the perfect law of liberty.”
      1. Freedom from “the law.” (Gal. 5:1-3).
      2. Freedom from sin.
         a. Old law could not do this. (Rom. 8:1-3).
         b. From sin, not to sin. (Rom. 6:1; Gal. 5:13).
      3. Freedom to serve. (Rom. 6:17,18).
   C. It is a clear law - a mirror. (Vv. 23-24).

III. The Law Applied.
   A. It is applied by:
      1. Laying aside all filthiness … (V. 21).
      2. Receiving it with meekness — hearing it — looking into it. (V. 21, 25).
      3. Not forgetting, but doing it. (Vv. 22-25).
   B. When applied, it:
      1. Begets (KJV); Gives birth (NIV); Brings forth (NKJ); (V. 18).
         a. By the implanted word. (V. 21)
         b. Corinthians begotten by gospel. (1 Cor. 4:15; cf. Acts 18:8).
      2. Saves our souls. (V. 21).
      3. Reveals our true condition. (V. 24).

Conclusion:

A. Will you receive it today?
B. Will you obey it today?
C. Will you continue in it?