

The Book of James

Chapter 1 Part 2

“Dealing with Temptation, Anger and Religion”

Return To
All Commentary

There was a young woman in her 20's that had been engaged to a young man who had abandoned her to marry another woman.

She decided to catch a plane flight to Colorado and spend the weekend at one of the local ski lodges.

While on the plane flight to Denver, she was sitting next to Jay Kessler who at that time, was the head of **“Youth For Christ”**.

Jay noticed that the young woman was crying, so he asked her if he could help.

She began to describe how she had kept herself a virgin for the one man that she would spend the rest of her life with.

This man that she had saved herself for, had just abandoned her for a **“wild girl”** that was the exact opposite of herself.

She was on her way to the ski lodge to **“Make up for some lost time”**.

Jay asked her: **“Are you going to give up on something you have always believed in just because of one painful experience?”**

She said that she **“Didn't know what she was going to do”** as she sat silently gazing out the window of the plane.

After a few minutes, she asked Jay where he was staying while he was in Colorado.

He told her, and she said that she was also staying at the same lodge. **“Would you like to meet at the resort and have a couple of drinks with me?”**

Jay told the young woman, **“If you need someone to tell you that you are attractive, let me tell you that you are very attractive. If you want to know if you are desirable, yes you are very desirable, but if you are asking me if I want to act on that desire, no I am not going to do it”**

“You are vulnerable right now, you are hurt, felling unwanted, but I am married, I am also a Christian.”

“I am not going to meet with you because that would mean taking advantage of you and also violating my own commitment to my wife and to my Lord”.

She sat gazing at Jay for a few moments and then said to him: ***“If I thought that I could ever find another man like you, who would turn down the offer that I just made, I would stay a virgin the rest of my life until I found him”***

Jay told her that there were many men who would make the same kind of commitment that he had just made to her. ***“You just have to wait till you find him.”***

When they touched down in Denver, Jay put the young woman in touch with some of the female staff at Youth For Christ where she spent the weekend, flying home the next week with a renewed commitment and a new hope in her life.

James 1

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Do you think that Jay was tempted to accept the offer of the young woman?

- ☞ **Every man in this sanctuary** can tell you that most certainly Jay was tempted, even as all of us would be.
- ☞ **But the temptation** to accept the young ladies offer was not a sin.
- ☞ **Every person here this morning** feels the temptation to give into certain things or give ourselves over to certain things in our life.

Even Jesus was Tempted many times, in every area that we are also tempted.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but **was in all points tempted as we are**, yet without sin.

Temptation to give in is not sin.

- ☞ **It is only when** we have made a conscious decision to actually do what the temptation is calling for, that it becomes sin.
- ☞ **In Jays case**, it would have meant the breaking of his promise to his wife and to Jesus to keep himself only for his wife.

I am sure that in that instant before Jay told the woman that he would not accept her offer, **he had to remind himself of who he was, where he was committed, and to who he was committed.**

- ☞ **He also had to have compassion** on this young woman who had just had her heart broken by someone that she had loved and trusted.
- ☞ **We know** what that is like don't we?

We know how it feels when someone that we had trusted has broken that trust, or taken advantage of us.

- ☞ **To give in to her request** would have also destroyed her life.
- ☞ **Something that I think** that many times we don't consider when we are tempted, "*What will this do to other people?*"
- ☞ **What will giving into this temptation do to My Jesus**, who had to hang on a Cross, and be beaten beyond recognition as a man, because of all of my sin?"
- ☞ **What am I saying to you Jesus** if I willfully do something that I know will also break your heart and take advantage of the Great love and sacrifice You have made for me?

When Joseph in the Book of Genesis was just a teenage boy, in the height of his physical strength and vitality, was confronted with Potipher's wife as she tempted him to come and sleep with her...

Listen to what Joseph told her:

Genesis 39:6-9

6 ... Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

7 And it came to pass after these things that **his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."**

8 But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household.

9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"**

Josephs ultimate commitment was to His Lord, who really owned Josephs life.

"How could I do this great wickedness and sin against God..."

- ☞ **Was Joseph Tempted** to accept her offer?
- ☞ **He was a young teenage boy**, what do you think?
- ☞ **And yet, the temptation**, as strong as it was, Joseph did not sin himself by being tempted.

James 1

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

We get so short sighted sometimes, we see what is right in front of us as though it is the only thing in our life that will ever satisfy and fulfill us.

☞ **We forget** what the bible says about being satisfied:

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

James 1, verse 12 is a reminder to us that in the midst of the temporary rewards and satisfaction of giving into all of the different temptations this world offers to us, that there is a far greater and more satisfying reward waiting for us...

- ☞ **The young woman had not considered** that there could be another man out there for her, who would love only her and be committed to only her for the rest of his life.
- ☞ **When she saw these qualities** in Jay, she was renewed in her hope and commitment to save herself and wait for this man to come into her life.

Here James, Jesus brother reminds us this morning

1. Temptations come to everyone of us.
2. The temptation in itself is not a sin.
3. To not give into the temptation has far greater rewards in the future and for eternity, than the temporary thrill of giving into it right now.

In verse 12, James speaks of “**The Crown of Life**”, which will be given to every person that Endures Temptation.”

- ☞ **There is coming very soon**, a day in which every tiny little thing that you resisted in being tempted, every tiny little thing that you did for and because of Jesus, will receive a reward.
- ☞ **There are 5 Crowns** that are spoken of in the Bible, that will be given to every person who finished their life being faithful and committed to Jesus.
 1. **Imperishable Crown** 1 Corinthians 9:25: Those who finish with Jesus.
 2. **Crown of Rejoicing** 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 Those who plant seed and water and lead others to Jesus.
 3. **Crown of Life** James 1:2 Those who endure Temptation.
 4. **Crown of Righteousness** 2 Timothy 4:8 Those waiting and watching for the return of Jesus.
 5. **Crown of Glory** 1 Peter 5:2-4 Those who teach others the Word of God and Shepherd them.

These 5 Rewards will be given by Jesus, right after the Rapture as we meet Him in the atmosphere surrounding the Earth.

- ☞ **The “Rapture”** is a doctrine that is taught in the New Testament that says that at a pre appointed time, Jesus will return, not to the Physical earth, but to the outer atmosphere, where he will “Rapture” or snatch away, Remove all those who have given their lives to Jesus, Love Him, and have been living for Him.
- ☞ **God is about to finish** this present world as we know it, but before He does, there will be one final 7 year period in which He will fulfill everything that the Book of Revelation describes.
- ☞ **Just prior to the beginning** of this 7 year “Tribulation Period”, Jesus will come and remove all of us who love Him, from the earth.

We will be teaching what the Rapture is during our Sunday evening service, coming soon...

The Crowns will be presented to us by Jesus at His judgment seat, when He removes us from the earth and takes us back to Heaven with Him.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For **we** must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

In the Greek language the words “*Judgment Seat*” are the “**Bema**”, which is similar to the Judges stand at the Olympic games where the Judge gives the winner of a race, a reward for finishing the race a winner.

- ☞ **This is not a “Judgment seat” for your sins.** The person that has placed all of their hope in Jesus for their salvation, has already had their sins forgiven, as they were judged on the Cross when Jesus died.
- ☞ **This Judgment seat** is for those who have believed in Jesus, and lived for Him, so that he might reward us for those things that we did FOR Jesus **AFTER** we were saved.
- ☞ **They are not rewards for salvation**, they are rewards for **SERVICE** to Jesus in **HOW** we lived for Him.

The important point here is that James reminds us to not be so short sighted in our life.

- ☞ **The world wants you to give into** it’s “**Party On**” attitude because they claim that life is short, you only have what is right here, right now, so go for it.
- ☞ **So the temptation is** to just give yourself to whatever you want to do.

It is the kind of attitude that the young woman had in our story this morning after the man she had loved and trusted, betrayed her. She figured that since her good behavior didn’t pay, she might as well just “Go For it” and live like everyone else.

- ☞ **What she realized** is that there are millions of people who love the Lord and who are trying to live their life for Him.

- ☞ **That this life is not all there is**, That The Bible is true, Jesus promised that if we would live for Him, our reward would not only be Eternal Life, but A Quality of Eternal life that is beyond imagination here on Earth.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

This verse means that you can try to imagine how wonderful and beautiful it will be in heaven, but your human mind cannot conceive of how incredible it really is.

- ☞ **You could sit and day dream endlessly** about what it must be like, and stretch your imagination to the limits, and the Lord would still say to you: **“No Rob it is a billion times Better than that!”**

2 Corinthians 12:2,4

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.
4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

We are so preoccupied with trying to achieve financial success and accumulate things here on the earth, when in reality someday the Father is going to give everything in the universe to all those who have loved Jesus and lived for Him.

Romans 8:16-17

16 For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that **we are God’s children**.
17 And since we are his children, **we will share his treasures**—for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, **is ours, too**. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Take your pick:

- ☞ Everything that the **Earth** has to offer.
- ☞ Everything that the **Universe** has to offer.

And here is the really cool thing: “It is already yours! It is just waiting there for you to arrive.

- ☞ **So the idea that James is trying to get across to us this morning** is that we don’t have to give into all of the temptation that the world puts on us.
- ☞ **We don’t need anything** this world has to offer us, therefore it has no power over us.
- ☞ **Our Treasure is in Jesus**, and He wants to share all the Treasure of the whole universe, with us.
- ☞ **It is like the young lady in our story this morning**, all we have to do is wait for it, but it is coming soon!

If you knew that in 10 years from today, on May 16, 2014 at 11:45 in the morning, you were going to win the largest lottery that has ever existed, 29 Billion dollars after taxes, all you had to do was live righteously the next 10 years poor and destitute, would you do it?

- ☞ **Well because you have loved**, accepted and are living for Jesus right now, that is your destiny.
- ☞ **Compared to heaven** and what Jesus wants to give us, even that 29 Billion is nothing compared to what Jesus wants to give you for free.
- ☞ **Even the wealthiest man alive, Bill Gates**, The Web site that tracks his wealth based on what Microsoft Stock is worth as of today, says that His net worth just in Microsoft Stock is 29.22 Billion

That means that Every

Second Makes \$50.54

Minute Makes \$3,032.60

Hour Makes \$181,956.48

Day Makes 4.37 Million

Week Makes 30.57 Million

Year 1.59 billion

You could spend almost 5 million dollars a day of your life and never spend just Bill Gates yearly earnings.

If you combined the Salaries of The President of the United States, the vice President, The Chief Justice, All Associate Justices, Every Senator, Every State Representative, \$79,785,000 a year in salaries, Bill Gates could pay these salaries 389 times

There is 147 million Troy ounces of Gold in Fort Knox Kentucky.

- ☞ **All the gold reserves** of the entire United States is worth **\$55.09 billion** dollars.
- ☞ **Bill Gates net worth is 53%** of the entire Gold reserves of the Entire United States.
- ☞ **Yeah, you could say that Bill Gates is a Wealthy man.**

But did you know that in Heaven, Bill Gates would be the lowest paid man there!

Man, do we need to here this, because there is such a great temptation to just go for all the world has to offer, and loose sight of the fact that we don't have to pursue riches, all we have to do is PURSUE JESUS and he will share with all of us, ALL THE TREASURES OF THE UNIVERSE!

James 1

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But **each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.**

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Notice that when you feel temptation, it didn't come from the Lord.

- ⊕ **Temptation** comes from 2 sources.
- ⊕ **One:** Our own flesh.
- ⊕ **Two:** the Demonic realm of satan.

Did you ever see the Bumper sticker that says: "Lead me not into Temptation For I can find it Myself!"

- ⊕ **That is true** isn't it?
- ⊕ **We really don't need any help** to give into temptation, we are pretty good at it all by ourselves.
- ⊕ **Back in the 80's** there used to be a saying that Flip Wilson used as a part of his comedy routine: "*The Devil Made me do it*"

May I say to you, the devil cannot make a Christian do anything. Unless, we have to give him permission to tempt us.

- ⊕ **We give him permission** to tempt us when we start living a compromised lifestyle.
- ⊕ **When we claim to be living for Jesus**, but in reality we are just living for our self.
- ⊕ **If we are on fire**, and sold out for Jesus every day, there is no way that the demonic realm can have any power over our life.

But when we live after the desires of our flesh, notice what verse 14 says: "We are led away by our own desires...Once the desire is conceived, it gives birth to sin."

- ⊕ **Wherever out eyes**, ears, or thoughts, go, there goes out heart.
- ⊕ **Wherever our heart goes**, there our body goes.
- ⊕ **If our eyes are on Jesus**, our Ears are listening to His Word everyday, If our constant thoughts are on how we can please Jesus with our life, then our heart will be full of Jesus and our body will naturally live in a way that pleases the Lord.

Once we stop Looking to Jesus in everything, stop Listening to His Word every Sunday and Wednesday and throughout our week, then our heart strays from Him **and is open to giving into temptation.**

- ⊕ **And verse 15 says** that if we continue on living to please our flesh, forgetting live for Jesus, eventually it will kill us Eternally.

James 1

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and **comes down from the Father** of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Everything you have in your life right now, is a direct result of the Lord giving it to you. That includes all of the things that we classify as Good and all the things we see as Bad.

- ☞ **We received a phone call** Friday from our oldest son Rob, who is in his 3rd year serving in the Special forces division of the Air Force.
- ☞ **Rob said that he had some “Bad News”** for us, June 9th he is being sent to Afghanistan with his special forces group to hunt the Caves and Mountains of Afghanistan for Bin Laden and the Taliban.

Right now Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous places on the earth.

- ☞ **There is a high likelihood** that my Oldest Son will not come out of this alive.
- ☞ **Everyday he will be shot at**, every day, He will be taking the lives of others.

He told me that he was very scared, but also very excited, because he knows that this is the happening because the Lord wants it to happen.

- ☞ **Rob knows** that going to Afghanistan is the Lords plan for his life.
- ☞ **If it wasn't the Lord's plan** then Rob would never come close to Afghanistan.

I told Him to not fear death. After all I told him, He could choke to death on a pretzel, watching a football game in his own living room, if the Lord wanted to take his life, he doesn't have to send Rob to hunt the Taliban.

- ☞ **We see this as** “A Good and Perfect gift from the Lord”.
- ☞ **Our God** is in control of Robs life.
- ☞ **I have prayed** for that son for 25 years.
- ☞ **I know that whatever happens** to Rob in Afghanistan, it is under the Lords power and control.

In the next few months, I may loose my oldest son, I may never again see him in this lifetime.

- ☞ **But I know** that because Rob loves Jesus and has given his life to him, that if he should be killed over there, he would immediately be in the presence of the Lord.
- ☞ **Never-the less**, I want to tell you I am really struggling with this being a “***Good and Perfect Gift***” from the Lord.

I know in my heart that this is the Lords gift, who knows what incredible things that Jesus will do in my sons life while he is in Afghanistan.

- ☞ **He told me** that he is already praying and planning to tell the 5 other men that he his going on his team to Afghanistan with, about Jesus.
- ☞ **He realizes** that this Gift he has been given, may very well be just to reach 5 other guys who don't yet know how wonderful Jesus is.

- ☞ **Who knows** what this time over there will do to prepare Rob for something else that the Lord wants to do in Rob's life.
- ☞ **Or it is possible** that this is the time that the Lord has appointed for my son to Go home.

That is the kind of attitude we need to have, In any situation *“Lord this is your gift to me, you have a purpose, and that purpose is perfect and righteous for me.”*

James 1

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

This is an awesome verse that shows that the Lord saved us, as a part of HIS WILL, so that we could be on PUBLIC DISPLAY to the entire universe, of How incredible Gods love is.

1 Corinthians 4:9

For I think that **God has displayed us**, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for **we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.**

Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,
15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

James 1

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man **be swift to hear, slow to speak**, slow to anger;
20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

What do you think that Lord was saying to us when He created us with ONE MOUTH and TWO EARS?

- ☞ **He was saying** that we should be listening twice as much as we are talking.
- ☞ **Well, One thing is for sure**, I fail in this area miserably!
- ☞ **I talk way too much**, I listen way to little.

I think that if we would really listen to each other, I mean REALLY listen to each other...We would know each other in a much more intimate way.

- ☞ **Try to see into the heart** of the person that is speaking and see what the hidden meaning of what they are saying really is...
- ☞ **We really do not listen to each other** while the other person is talking, we are usually thinking what we want to say next.
- ☞ **Instead we should** really be listening, let each other finish, then try to understand what they just said. Then think about our response and answer.

“be swift to hear, slow to speak ...and slow to anger...” for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

A man awoke one morning to the sound of something banging on his roof.

He climbed out the upstairs window to see a woodpecker banking his brains out on the metal pole of his television antenna.

Angry that he had been awoken from his sleep, he threw a large hammer that sailed past the woodpecker, to the other side of his house

Hearing the sound of glass and metal in his driveway, he runs down stairs to see what had happened, as he does, he twisted his right ankle.

Limping out the front door, he sees to his horror that his hammer has smashed the windshield and hood of his brand new car.

Kicking the ground in disgust with his foot, he forgets that he was in his bare feet...breaking the big toe of his left foot...

Ever have one of those days?

Did you notice in the spelling of the word “ANGER”, that it is just one letter short of the word “DANGER”

There are two types of anger that we can have:

1. *“Righteous Anger”*
2. *“Unrighteous Anger”*

I think that sometimes we have the idea that any time we are angry, we are wrong, but that is not necessarily the case...

Matthew 21:12-13

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

13 And He said to them, “It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Jesus was angry because the area of the Temple that these men had set up their tables in, was **“The Court of the Gentiles”**

- ☞ **It was an area** that the Lord had set aside where a person could come and worship God, who was not a Jew.
- ☞ **The Lord wants** all people to have access to Him.

- ☞ **When the Gentiles came to the temple** to worship God, they many times had to travel great distances to get to Jerusalem, so they did not bring an animal with them to sacrifice, they would just purchase one there at the Temple.
- ☞ **The “Money Changers”**, set up these tables there to convert the money of the Gentile, into the Temple money.
- ☞ **You see, only Temple money** could be used to purchase an animal for a sacrifice.
- ☞ **The problem was**, that these men at the Money changing tables did not trade Dollar for Dollar, so to speak, they charged a large “Exchange Fee” for converting Gentile money into the Temple money, so they were “Ripping the people off”
- ☞ **This made Jesus** extremely angry.

Also, If you did happen to bring an animal with you over this great distance from your home to the temple, when you brought it to the temple priests, they would always find “A Defect” in your animal and force you to purchase one of their “Perfect” animals, at extremely high prices.

- ☞ **This made Jesus Extremely angry**, because the people were coming to worship God, the men who were supposed to be ministering to the people the Love and mercy of God, were cheating them.

So Jesus, a big strong Carpenter, takes the lash used to move a donkey along, and begins to strike the men at the money changer tables, and run them out of the “**Court of the Gentiles**”.

- ☞ **This is “Righteous Anger”**, it is anger because someone else is getting hurt or cheated.
- ☞ **Most of the time**, our anger is because we got hurt, or did not get what we wanted, or for some reason that effects us personally.
- ☞ **When we get angry** in these cases, It is “**Unrighteous Anger**”.

Psalms 4:4

Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.

Ephesians 4:26

“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

- ☞ **We can be angry** when we see **someone else** getting hurt or ripped off and that is what these 2 verses re speaking of.
- ☞ **When we are angry for personal reasons**, it is then that it becomes sin...

Here are a few Modern day Proverbs for you, concerning anger:

“Speak when you are angry with someone and you will make the best speech that you will ever regret”...

“When you are angry always count to ten before you say anything, it will give you more time to come up with the right insult...”

“The person that has the smallest mind is usually the first one to give someone a piece of it...”

“Swallowing angry words is always easier than eating them...”

“A Believer at war with his brother cannot be at peace with his Father...”

James 1

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But **he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

Man, I love how God’s Word just “Nails us” right where we live.

- ☞ **We are so good** at professing that we believe at Jesus.
- ☞ **We can even sometimes** quote large parts of the bible to people.
- ☞ **We might even be able to argue doctrine** extremely effectively with other people...

But listen up...If the Word of God and your Relationship with Jesus has not changed you...Are you really Saved?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

The greatest proof to ourselves and to others is the fact that since Jesus has come into our lives, He has changed us...

“...he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Jesus died to set us free, to give us Liberty, but if we take His Great love and the Freedom that we have and we use it as an excuse to continue to just live to please our self, SOMETHING IS DRASTICALLY WRONG.

- ☞ **Jesus died so that those who accept His sacrifice for their sins, would no longer live the rest of their lives for themselves**, but would do What Jesus did, *“Pour out their lives in the service of others, and lay down their lives to love other people...”*

James 1

26 **If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.**

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Christianity is unique among all of the religions of the world in that it is not a religion at all.

- ☞ **Religion is a creation of man**, in his attempt at reaching up to God and making himself acceptable to God.
- ☞ **In reality**, man can never reach up to God at all.
- ☞ **The gap between God and us**, is so great, that the Bible teaches there is no work that man can ever do, that can make him acceptable to God.

Christianity, is not a Religion, it is about a Relationship with God.

- ☞ **It is God reaching down to us**, through His own Son Jesus Christ, who took upon Himself every filthy and vile thing that we have ever done, paid for it, then removed it from our record, leaving us Perfect and Spotless.
- ☞ **We only have acceptance with God**, because of what Jesus has done, not because of some religion we have believed in.

But if you insist on being “Religious”, Paul give you the definition of what “Pure Religion” really is:

“to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

- ☞ **It is not warming a Pew** or a chair in church every Sunday
- ☞ **It is not praying** 3 times a day.
- ☞ **It is not reading 4 chapters** a day in your Bible

It is Getting out of your comfort zone, taking the Love and the Grace that Jesus died to give to you and DOING SOMETHING WITH IT.

- ☞ **Visiting a woman who has lost her husband**, seeing if you can help meet any of her needs, or to just comfort her and love her.
- ☞ **It is finding the kids** here in Winslow and on the Reservation who do not have a mom or dad, and becoming a Mom or Dad to them, spending time with them, becoming a part of their life, loving them the way Jesus would Love them.
- ☞ **It is keeping your life clean for the Lord, Living your life in such a way that when people see you living everyday, they can tell that you really do love Jesus and belong to Him.**

“If you were arrested and accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you...?”