We Had Church!

James 1:26-27

Sermon Outline

A. Church (vs. 26)?:

1. If anyone thinks – This is if someone continuously believe that their actions have a reputation for being superior and are therefore religiously acceptable.
2. If anyone thinks – To think this way is to convince oneself that our way of thinking is correct.
3. If anyone thinks – To think independent of God is to make ourselves superior to God (1 Corinthians 2:10-15).
4. If anyone thinks – To think after only being a listener and then believe what we think is to have false expectations of religion.
5. If anyone thinks himself – This way of thinking can actually be demonic because it is earthly wisdom (James 3:14-16).
6. If anyone thinks himself – We should try to convince ourselves we are right without checking the Word.
7. To be Religious – A religious person is someone who is continuously devoted to the outward ceremonial service that is accepted as appropriate for a particular denomination or church.
8. To be Religious – To be religious is to be committed to what is the accepted church thing.
9. To be Religious – To be religious is to be whatever the denomination expects and accepts.
10. Does not bridle his tongue – To not bridle one’s tongue refers to a person who cannot refrain from talking. They have loose lips; can literally mean an uncontrollable tongue.
11. Deceives – The person who cannot control their tongue (3:2-12) has misled themselves to think that they are genuinely religious.
12. Heart – This person’s passions and mindset of this religious person is misled into feeling and thinking that their religious activities is truly pleasing to God.
13. This man’s religion - The ceremonial service that this person believes they are reverently providing and is holy to God has no value in the sight of God.
14. Worthless – Adjective, nominative, singular, feminine | predicate adjective – While this individual may think they are sincerely worshipping God, God views their worship as the same as chasing their own shadow; it is a futile activity that turns out to be empty.

   a) It is almost as if James is saying works without faith.
   b) God only rewards faith (Hebrews 11:6).
B. Church (vs. 27):

1. Pure religion – Pure religion is when a believer worships God and experiences a growing process that leads to holiness.
2. Pure religion – Pure religion is a spiritually maturing process that removes a believer from the stain and pollution of the world to true experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
3. Undefiled religion - Undefiled religion is when a person comes before God in worship with a genuine heart ready to service Him as outlined in His Word. This is faultless worship.
4. Undefiled religion – Undefiled religion is coming before God as a living sacrifice that is Holy acceptable (Romans 12:1).
5. Undefiled religion – Undefiled religion is when my week in the world did not make me unacceptable before God (1 Timothy 2:8).
6. In the sight of God – As we draw near to God in worship with a pure and undefiled religion we experience His presence (The churches of Revelation).
7. God and Father – Worship is acceptable before God who is supreme overall and is the One who the authored of our spiritual birth and is the beginning of everything.
8. Is – Pure and undefiled religion is always going to be what is described in this verse (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
9. Visit the orphans - Pure and undefiled religion is when a person makes it a habit to diligently and carefully examine the needs of those who are fatherless or without parents.
10. Visit the orphans - Pure and undefiled religion is when a person makes it a habit to diligently and carefully examine the needs of those who are widows as the Old Testament outlined for them to do.
11. Visit orphans and widows – Verb, present+either middle or passive, infinitive, middle or passive deponent, deponent | direct object/ Accusative, plural, feminine-noun, adjective, pronominal | direct object – Worship is ‘a reasonable act of service.’ (Romans 12:1).
12. Distress; tribulation – Noun, dative, singular, feminine | prepositional object – Providing careful attention is particularly when orphans and widows are overwhelmed and grievously afflicted based on a variety of issues from their surroundings.
13. Distress; tribulation – To neglect those in need is to violate God’s Word so that is why it is worship (1 Thessalonians 5:13-14).
14. Keep oneself unstained – We must focus on having a watchful attitude so that we maintain a hearty acceptance to the God’s will so that how we live pure and undefiled.
15. Keep oneself unstained – We must live with a submissive heart before God so that as He directs our lives we “present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God.” (Romans 12:1). We are to be like the lamb that was spotless, without blemish as it was brought to be sacrificed to God.
16. By this world - We must not allow ourselves to be influenced by any world system because the world is in the grip of Satan.
17. **By this world** - We cannot allow ourselves to become obsessed by fads, fashions, money and set our minds to believe what the world accepts that is opposite to the ways of God is better. This is to cause ourselves to become defiled in the sight of God.

18. **By this world** – If the pressure the world puts on us leaves us defiled and stained our worship is unacceptable.

19. **By this world** – Pure religion allows us to gain a true experience of God when at church.