

Reflection

Twenty-Second Sunday Ordinary Time

September 1, 2024

James 1:22 “Be doers of the word and not hearers only”

Do you let the love of God influence and change how you go about your everyday life, including how you see, talk about, and interact with other people? Do you let any blind spots obstruct your understanding of God's ways and his kingdom? Jesus referred to the religious authorities of his day as hypocrites because they pretended to be decent on the outside while harboring negative attitudes, self-centered goals and aspirations, or evil intents. They took great delight in their understanding and external obedience of the scriptures, considering they were the most learned of their day. They diligently followed their religious obligations and rituals on the outside, but they ignored the truths of God's plan and goal for the scripture—namely love, justice and goodness.

It is deemed self-deception to only hear or understand the WORD without acting upon it. But living by God's commands and turning from sin are essential components of true obedience to the word. However, in deception, the Word which is the wellspring of all knowledge is treated in a casual manner, in a way that is not enriching to our souls. The WORD must become relevant to our spiritual lives. Since people who uphold God's word and law are and will continue to be blessed in all that they do. Indeed, according to Romans 2.13, those who uphold the law will be justified, not those who merely hear it.

Accordingly, when we allow the word to effectively change our lives and enable us to know, love, and serve God, we become doers of the word. Also, if we attentively examine the word of truth, it will reveal to us the corruption inherent in our nature, as well as our sins. Moreover, it will bluntly reveal who we are. So, let us not limit ourselves to only listening or even comprehending the WORD without putting it into practice