

Following the Good Physician's Rx for you

James 1:22-25

Part 2

January 30, 2011

The Great Commission:

“Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Overall theme of the book
of James:

Real faith produces
genuine works.



*Faith is the root.
Works are the
fruit.*

*If you have the
root, then you will
have the fruit.*

*“It is faith alone that justifies, but
faith that justifies can never be
alone.”*

- John Calvin

Main Point of James 1:22-25:

Don't simply read, study and listen
to God's Word;
make it a priority to put what you
learn into practice!

Parakupto

*“to bend over, to peer intently, to
examine with great care.”*

“We must daily soak ourselves in the Scriptures. We must not just study, as through a microscope, the linguistic minutiae of a few verses, but take our telescope and scan the wide expanses of God's Word, assimilating its grand theme of divine sovereignty in the redemption of mankind.”

‘It is blessed,’ wrote Charles Spurgeon, ‘to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in scriptural language, and your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord, so that your blood is bibline and the very essence of the Bible flows from you.’

- John Stott

John 8:34-36

“Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever, the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.’”

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.”

- Charles Spurgeon

Active Dependence

Philippians 2:12-13

“...work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

“A farmer plows his field, sows the seed, and fertilizes and cultivates – all the while knowing that in the final analysis he is utterly dependent on forces outside of himself. He knows he cannot cause the seed to germinate, nor can he produce the rain and sunshine for growing and harvesting the crop. For a successful harvest, he is dependent on these things from God.

- Jerry Bridges, The Pursuit of Holiness

“Yet the farmer knows that unless he diligently pursues his responsibilities to plow, plant, fertilize, and cultivate, he cannot expect a harvest at the end of the season. In a sense he is in a partnership with God, and he will reap its benefits only when he has fulfilled his own responsibilities.

Farming is a joint venture between God and the farmer. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer should do.

- Jerry Bridges, The Pursuit of Holiness

“We can say just as accurately that the pursuit of holiness is a joint venture between God and the Christian. No one can attain any degree of holiness without God working in his life, but just as surely no one will attain it without effort on his own part. God has made it possible for us to walk in holiness. But He has given to us the responsibility of doing the walking; He does not do that for us.”

- Jerry Bridges, The Pursuit of Holiness

“...holiness is a process, something we never attain in this life. That is why we will always be pursuing – as opposed to attaining – holiness in this life.”

- Jerry Bridges, The Pursuit of Holiness

*“Shortly after my book The Pursuit of Holiness was published in 1978, I was invited to give a series of ten lectures on that subject at a church in our city. One night I titled my lecture “**The Chapter I Wish I Had Written.**”*

The nature of that message was that the pursuit of holiness must be motivated by an ever-increasing understanding of the grace of God; else it can become oppressive and joyless.”

- Jerry Bridges, The Discipline of Grace

“We are to live our lives from acceptance, not for acceptance.”

Romans 8:1

*“There is therefore now no
condemnation for those who are in
Christ Jesus.”*

Romans 5:1

“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 2:16

“Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law (i.e. obedience to God’s commands) but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law (i.e. obedience to God’s commands), because by works of the law (i.e. obedience to God’s commands) no one will be justified.”

“Living by grace instead of by works means you are free from the performance treadmill. It means God has already given you an “A” when you deserved an “F”. He has already given you a full day’s pay even though you may have worked only one hour. It means you don’t have to perform certain spiritual disciplines to earn God’s approval.

Jesus Christ has already done that for you. You are loved and accepted by God through the merit of Jesus, and you are blessed by God through the merit of Jesus. Nothing you ever do will cause Him to love you any more or any less. He loves you strictly by His grace given to you through Jesus!”

- Jerry Bridges

What is Legalism?

Legalism is seeking to achieve forgiveness from God and acceptance by God through obedience to God.

“Legalism has its origin in self-worship. If people are justified through their obedience to the law, then they merit praise, honor, and glory. Legalism, in other words, means the glory goes to people rather than God.”

- Thomas Schreiner

The antidote to legalism is living a
“gospel-centered” life!

“Preach the gospel to yourself every day! By doing so, it addresses the self-righteous Pharisee and the guilt-laden sinner that dwell in our hearts.”

- Jerry Bridges

“The gospel-centered life is a life where a Christian experiences a growing personal reliance on the gospel that protects him from depending on his own religious performance and being seduced and overwhelmed by idols.”

- Tim Challies and Joe Thorn

3 Fruits of a Gospel-Centered Life

1. Confidence (Heb. 3:14; 4:16) *When the gospel is central in our lives we have confidence before God - not because of our achievements, but because of Christ's atonement. We can approach God knowing that he receives us as his children. We do not allow our sins to anchor us to guilt and despair, but their very presence in our lives compels us to flee again and again to Christ for grace that restores our spirits and gives us strength.*

3 Fruits of a Gospel-Centered Life

2. Intimacy (Heb. 7:25; 10:22; James 4:8) *When the gospel is central in our lives we have and maintain intimacy with God, not because of our religious performance, but because of Jesus' priestly ministry. We know that Jesus is our mediator with God the Father and that he has made perfect peace for us through his sacrifice allowing us to draw near to God with the eager expectation of receiving grace, not judgment.*

3 Fruits of a Gospel-Centered Life

3. Transformation (2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 2:13) *When the gospel is central in our lives we experience spiritual transformation, not just moral improvement, and this change does not come about by our willpower, but by the power of the resurrection. Our hope for becoming what God designed and desires for us is not trying harder, but trusting more - relying on his truth and Spirit to sanctify us.*

“We believers do need to be challenged to a life of committed discipleship, but that challenge needs to be based on the gospel, not on duty or guilt. Duty or guilt may motivate us for awhile, but only a sense of Christ’s love for us will motivate us for a lifetime.”

- Jerry Bridges

“Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God’s grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God’s grace.”