

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**January 16-17, 1999**

**"Stop Kidding Yourself"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 1:19-27**

Bridling the Tongue (James 1:26)

Genuine concern for the welfare of others (James 1:27).

The word "visit" (EPISKEPTETHAI) means much more than to drop by for a chat. It carries the ideas of caring for others, exercising oversight on their behalf, and of helping them in whatever way is needed. It is from the same root as EPISKOPOS which means "overseer" and is sometimes translated "bishop."

What areas do we need to give attention to if we are going to thrive in this area of showing genuine concern?

We must be prepared financially (Proverbs 6:6-8; Proverbs 30:24-25).

We must be prepared strategically.

God expects us to deal responsibly with needy people who have in some sense crossed our path (Luke 10:25-29).

Acting responsibly does not necessarily mean that we are obligated to give to every needy person that crosses our path (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Acting responsibly does not necessarily mean that we are obligated to act alone in meeting the needs of others (1 Timothy 5:8).

We must prepare ourselves spiritually (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).