

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

January 23-24, 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)

Separation from the world (James 1:27)

"To keep" translates a form of the Greek verb TEREO indicating regular, continuous action. In other words, keeping "oneself unstained by the world" is the perpetual obligation of Christians.

The "world" (KOSMOS) in the Bible is used to represent fallen mankind in general and it's ungodly spiritual systems of philosophy, morals, and values and that is the sense in which James uses the term in the present text.

The word "unstained" (ASPILON) speaks of a condition of purity that remains unchanged in spite of contact with surrounding pollution.

The world's rebellion must not become for us the force which molds and shapes our lives but rather it must be God's moral will.

God's "moral will" are those commands and principles in the Bible that teach men how they ought to believe and live and is the expression, in behavioral terms, of the character of God. This is why we are commanded "to be holy as God is holy" in I Peter 1:16.

The moral will of God is fully revealed in the Bible and is our final and complete authority for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).