

**Give Me a Heart That Seeks God's Will  
Maple Hill Church of Christ – June 25, 2008**

*How does each of these barriers interfere with the acceptance of God's Word? If these barriers are present, what does it say about the focus of our life?*

**I. Receiving of the Word (19-21)**

**Keys to Receiving God's Word:**

- Listening First (19)
- Meekness (21)

**Barriers to Receiving God's Word**

- Speaking First (19)
- Anger (19-20)
- Wickedness (21)

**II. Practice of the Word (22-27)**

*Why would this message have been especially relevant for Jewish readers?  
-Romans 2:12-29*

**παρακύπτω - parakuptō**  
-to stoop to look in

**One is Blessed if They (v. 25):**

*Seek the Truth (John 20:1-5)*

*Stay on Track (Psalm 1)*

*Shape their Thinking (Phil 4:9)*

*See it Through (Matt 7:21-23)*

**James 1:19-27**

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be **quick to hear**, slow to speak, slow to anger;

<sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.

<sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with **meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

<sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

<sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

<sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a **doer who acts**, he will be **blessed in his doing**.

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is **religious** and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**Ecc1 5:1-2**  
-Sacrifice of fools  
**Phil 4:5**  
-Forbearance

**Rom 3:21-26** - The righteousness of God

**Heb 12:1-2** - putting aside every weight  
**Matthew 5:2-12** - "The Beatitudes" - Pathway to Righteousness

Hearing without doing, indicates hearing without true faith in God  
**-Romans 10:14-17**  
**-James 2:14-26**

**Matt 13:3-9, 18-23**  
The parable of the sower.

**θρησκός - thrēskos**  
Describes the person who performs the external acts of religion, such as public worship, fasting, etc.

**3 Ways the Truth Should be Put Into Practice:**  
\*In speech (**James 3:1-12**)  
\*In love toward others (**Matt 25:31-46**)  
\*In avoiding the world's pollution (**Gal 5:19-21**)