

1. True Religion _____ the

- a. What is it that James says will not bring the righteousness of God?
- b. Why is this important for James' community *and* for ours?

2. True Religion _____ to
_____**Next Step:**

Go look at yourself in a mirror for a while. Buy a newspaper, and consider the images of the world you see there. What do you feel? Do you see the need for God's righteousness and mercy—in yourself and in the world? Do you feel moved to action? If so, begin with prayer, and try to discover some Jesus-centered actions you can take as an expression of your faith in God.

REFLECT

(ri'fлект) — To think carefully and deeply about something

That's the goal of the word of God: to learn and understand it through study. Use these questions to help you dig deeper and personally apply what you're learning.

LOOKING BACK

❶ Where did God get your attention in this message?

❷ Read 1:26-27. What does James identify as the marks of “pure and undefiled” religion? How have you defined “pure” or “true” religion in the past?

❸ Why was it that James' instruction against angry speech and action important for his people? Why is it important to us now?

❹ We saw some images from angry movements and groups on Sunday. What are some others you've seen, past or present? What was their goal? How did you feel about them?

❺ James makes it clear that our human anger does not make things right—between people or groups. What, then, does make things right between people? How do we invite God's righteousness into a situation?

PRAYER

Pray for our building campaign. Pray for our witness to our neighbors. Pray for needs in your group.