

Be Doers of the Word

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[0 : 00] Oh, thank the Lord for the songs of the people of God. Have something to sing.

Amen. If you've got your Bible, then how about you open it to the book of James, chapter number one tonight, James chapter one. And can I give you another verse?

Could you find John 13, the gospel of John 13? If you can't do two things at once, then just get James chapter one. Otherwise, James one, John 13, two verses we'll look at here briefly as we begin.

Oh, I wanted to mention that I got a text from Brother Robin and Genesis. They've been sick lately, been doing a lot of coughing, he said.

And his daughter, Sarah, they took to urgent care because she's been vomiting quite a bit last night and all through the day today. And so just be in prayer for Sarah. And he said he's sorry that he won't make it tonight, but that's what they've been dealing with.

[1 : 15] So I'd like to see them this weekend, Lord willing. So last week we were in Galatians chapter five with a real simple thought, a direct thought about what the Bible teaches us to sow to the spirit.

And as I said last week, you typically hear that thought about sowing and reaping. You hear it on the negative side of don't sin and stay away from the world. You're going to reap corruption and be not deceived.

And you hear all that, but the context I showed you was predominantly about doing good to others and helping a fallen brother and supporting the ministry and those kind of, and he says, sow to the spirit.

And it was a real simple thought, but it was one that you can use and one that you, it's convicting a little bit if you start to add up in your mind all the time you waste on vain things and just foolish things or just entertaining yourself or all the money you spend on things that don't do anything for you or just waste, just sitting in your closet or whatever.

And the challenge was to use that and to use your time and money to, to sow to the spirit and to do something that's eternal and reap eternally as a reward. Now, tonight I want to give you something that's really just as simple.

[2 : 32] It's just another common Bible verse, but I think that it can challenge you because it's practical and it's just where you sit. It's what you, it's what you need. It's what we all need.

So look at James one. And I think, you know, this verse, verse 22, where the Bible says, but be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Now, remember last week that, that caution was be not deceived. God is not mocked. And that thought like you think you can get away with your sin because it's, because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily because that doesn't come down on you right away.

You feel like, oh, I can keep doing this. It's not going to affect me. And you can deceive yourself.

And here now, James is warning Christians, us to, to not deceive our own selves by what?

By, by just being hearers of the word, by, by, by knowing the Bible, knowing what the word of God says, knowing Christian doctrine, you can kind of lull yourself into a place where I'm just, I'm good.

[3 : 42] I'm okay. And I know this truth. And I know that, you know what the Bible says about knowledge? It does what? It puffeth up. You, you, you can deceive your own self with your Bible knowledge.

And James is warning us to be doers of the word, not hearers only. One, one thing that's convicting to me, I bet it will be to you if you get around it at all as a, is a new believer that, that gets drawn to the scripture, new, new things they've never heard in their life.

And they take it and they believe it and they act on it. And they ask questions about it. And, and they, they're convicted about things in their life. They want to get it right. They want to please God. And they're growing and growing.

And one of the convicting things is they say something about this or that. And, and it, and it all of a sudden you might have the answer. And then inside your heart, it's like, Ooh, Ooh, I, I've kind of just, I've been sitting on that one or I've just kind of let that go in my life.

Whereas they're convicted about it because it's in the Bible and they want to be doers of the word. It can be convicting to you to get around a young believer who's gung ho for Jesus Christ and you find out, man, I'm kind of stale, but I feel like I'm okay.

[4 : 59] You know why? Because I'm a hearer, because I know the scripture and I know so much scripture. The truth is I'm just not doing so much scripture.

And that can be a habit. It can be a bad habit and we need to break it. And so James says, be doers of the word and not hearers only. You can come to church, hear the word of God several times a week.

You can read it. You can listen to it throughout your week. I know many of you do. And the shame would be is if you're just a hearer. Now faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And, and to take it backwards, the word of God, once it's heard, it's supposed to produce something. It produces faith. And for you and I, when we hear the word of God, we're not to be hearers only, but it's supposed to produce something in us.

There's supposed to be a reaction or a response to the word of God. The word is supposed to produce some fruit. And if there's no action, come back to John.

[6 : 05] And as a matter of fact, before we get to 13, look at John chapter 12. If there's no action, no response to the word of God, then you're going to get judged by that word.

You're going to be held accountable for the word that you heard, whether or not you did it or obeyed it. Look at John chapter 12. Look at verse 47.

I'll back up to 46. John 12, verse 46. I am come a light into the world that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

And if any man hear my words and believe not, I judge him not. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him. And what one is that? The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. So the word of God is going to condemn you if you don't act on what you've heard.

[7 : 12] You'll be judged by the word of God and you won't have any excuse. If you've heard the truth, then you had the opportunity to act on the truth, to receive the truth.

James says, don't be a hearer only. Act on it. Be a doer of it. Let it change you. All right? Now, John 13. Find that spot.

John 13. And here is a statement I want to pull out of Christ's teaching to his apostles and disciples here in John 13.

Look at verse 17. He says, if you know these things, because I've taught you these things, you've learned them, you've heard them. If you know them, then what?

Happy are ye if ye do them. If ye do them. So you've heard and you've been taught, now the decision's yours to act, to be a doer of the word.

[8 : 10] I don't want anybody in here that comes to church and hears the word of God and carries a King James Bible. I don't want you to be condemned by the word.

I don't want you to stand before Jesus Christ at the judgment seat of Christ and have to give an account for something that you didn't do, but you knew you should have. Because to him that knoweth to do good and what?

Doeth it not. Doeth it not. To him it is sin. I don't want you to have to give account of something when you should have and you could have done the right thing. My desire is to see you fruitful in every good work and to be doers of the word.

Now how can you be a doer of the word? Well there's 1,050 New Testament commands and we're going to go through them all tonight.

If you don't mind, it's just 12 pages. And this is broken down into I think 39 categories. And I'm just kidding you here, but this is taken out of the Dakes Annotated Bible.

[9 : 14] I've found it online, but I have one in my office if you want to take a look at it. You can look at this afterwards. Broken down into just scriptural things you're supposed to abstain from. Idols,

fornication, fleshly lusts.

It also has a category of seven things to avoid and it lists them. Things you're supposed to be and things you're supposed to not be. Things that you're like, well let me give you one here.

Be not conformed to this world. Be not overcome of evil. Be not deceived. Be not partakers with them. Speaking of the ungodly.

Be not weary and well doing. So there's a list. You compile the list, it all comes out as these are commands. And it's a lot of them. It's a lot of them. And I'm not going to go through the whole thing. And it's kind of neat to look at it.

Things that we're supposed to be doing and things that we're not. And they're just given in formats. You can take a peek at that. But of those 1,000, if that's accurate, 1,000 different individual unique commands given to the body of Christ.

[10:23] Those are really just, they're trying to help you. Trying to help you be doers of the word. Trying to help you to please God. I'm going to just summarize it in some easy things. And the first one I want to say for you, how you can be a doer of the word, is just to do right.

That's a good one. Just do right. Like, make that your philosophy in life. Your philosophy for this coming week. Your philosophy for tomorrow is I'm going to do right.

You're going to get put in a spot. You're going to be put to the test. You're going to have a temptation or a situation come your way. And you're going to be forced to make a decision. And if you program yourself to do right, you're going to be a doer of the word.

You're going to actually, this is where you can actually not be a hero only, but be a doer. And so I'm challenging you to fix your heart today that you're going to do right. You'll be tempted to lie.

But just do right. When Samuel bought his truck from a guy, we went to see it. And the guy was filling out the paperwork with me. And I was standing there.

[11:33] And he says, how much do you want me to put down that you paid for it? You know, I save you some money on taxes. What do you want to say? And I said, write down what we agreed on. He's like, what?

You sure? Because, you know, you could say, yeah, I know. And he didn't know what to say. I said, I'm not going to lie about this. It's not even my money. It's my son's, you know. He's paying for it. But he couldn't believe it. He actually stopped. He wouldn't write it down. He's like, are you sure? I said, look, I'm not going to lie to the California state government and then have to answer to Almighty God.

And he didn't know what to say to that. He probably never ran into an honest person. And so I tried to talk to him for a minute. But it was obvious he didn't want to talk about that. He wanted to get out of there.

But you'll have a, you know what? A big influencer for you to do wrong is money. Is that one right there. Is, well, just put down something different than what's true. Because it'll save you some money.

[12:31] You'll sell yourself out, your integrity, your testimony for a couple bucks. Don't be that way. Be a doer of the word. You're commanded to be honest. Let every man speak truth with his neighbor.

You're called to tell the truth. Don't let money. Don't let filthy lucre steal your integrity. I don't care if it's \$5,000 or \$25,000.

Don't ever lie for money. God can bless you far above any of that. So do right. You'll be tempted to cheat.

Don't cheat. You'll show up to work late one day and you'll be tempted to say, Well, I got stuck in traffic. When, no, you didn't. You overslept. Just tell the truth. Just tell the truth.

And if that's embarrassing, then stop oversleeping. That's easy. There's some phrases. One that I have always liked that's stuck with me forever is that it's always right to do right.

[13:29] I don't know where I ever heard that. If I ever did, I don't know. But it's in here and it's in here. It's always right to do right. And I'm not standing before you as if I'm a flawless man. That's far from the truth.

But when I'm faced with a situation and a decision to make and I know the right one, by the grace of God, it's in me that I want to do right. Because I want to be a doer of the word.

I learned that from the Bible. Here's a phrase that I know I've heard my father-in-law say, Do right till the stars fall. I think Bob Jones Sr. said that. I think it came before him even.

But that's a mindset. That's a decision that you need to make in your heart. Program yourself. Determine that you're just going to do right. Be different than everybody else.

And you can do that by doing right. In Genesis chapter 18, do you remember when the Lord appeared to Abraham and he had two men with him and they went on to Sodom.

[14 : 25] He's coming to see the wickedness and all of that. And he had a conversation with God about the people of Sodom and about how many righteous persons were there. And Abraham asked the Lord this question when he was trying to not get him to destroy it but to save the place or salvage what he could.

He said, Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? You know what Abraham, he expected God to do right.

In every situation and in this one where there was possibly, he's hoping, some just persons in that city, you're going to do right, God, aren't you?

You're the judge of all the earth. A judge should always do right. He should always judge righteous judgment. And that was something Abraham tried to put on God.

He expected him to do right. Well, are we not the children of God? Should we not be expected just the same to do right?

[15 : 27] You're not one of those undercover Christians, are you, at your job or in your family? Nobody knows that inside Jesus Christ lives and dwells.

You have opportunities to do right all the time. If you're created in Christ Jesus, then you're created in righteousness and true holiness.

Should we not do right? Should we not be expected to do right? Why, if you tell anybody that you're a born-again Christian, they're going to expect that you're going to start doing right.

They're going to expect that you don't cuss, that you don't talk about filthy things. They're going to expect that you're honest, that you're faithful and dependable. So do right.

The Bible says that even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right.

[16 : 27] You shouldn't be known as the prodigal or the misfit or the black sheep of your family. Be a doer of the word and just do right.

You don't have to... If you've never fallen into some filthy pit of sin, if you've never gotten strung out on some drugs and on a bender of alcohol and in some mess and some sin, if you've never gone down that road, then don't.

Don't ever go down that road. You don't need to go down that road to find out it's terrible. Just do right. You don't have to experience the filth of the world to know that it's filthy.

You don't have to roll around in the mud and you can just watch the hogs and you know, I don't want that. So don't go there. Just do right.

Plug it into your heart to do right. I want to give you another thought here. Look back at Ecclesiastes chapter 9. Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes.

[17 : 28] Find Ecclesiastes chapter 9. Be a doer of the word. And verse number 10.

This is some good advice from a very wise man who's done a lot of things with his life. In Ecclesiastes 9 and verse 10, Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

Secondly, I want to say, be a doer of the word. And not just do right, but do your best. Do your best at whatever you find in front of you.

Whatever vocation you're in, in any chance or opportunity you have to do something for Christ, do your best at it. You realize that the Old Testament law required the Jews to offer the very best that they could to the holy God of Israel.

He was a holy God. I bet they would fearfully offer their sacrifices coming before his presence. They would offer the best oil, the best wine, the best wheat.

[18 : 52] Their animal sacrifices were to be without blemish because God demanded their best. And I might add, he deserves their best. And when anyone would selfishly withhold from the Lord, they would pay for it.

The Lord is a righteous judge. The Lord's an all-knowing judge. You're not going to be not deceived. God is not mocked. And a man wouldn't get away with it. In the Proverbs, we could spend a lot of time in the Proverbs on this thought.

The reward is for the diligent man. The Bible never condones a foolish man or one that cuts corners or does things halfway.

The blessings never promised to the slothful man or to the sluggard, but rather the curse. He's called a fool, the lazy man. And society is filled with people like this.

They're filled with people that just don't care. And I can't put my finger on it just in one thing. One thing that comes to mind is growing up, you know, how things have changed in the realm of giving kids awards for just showing up, you know, participation trophies.

[20 : 04] Every kid gets a trophy. And that whole thing just is, it doesn't challenge anybody to strive for anything, to try your best, to try to be the best.

When I was coming up, you wanted to be the best kid on the team or the best, you wanted that position. You got tryouts and you wanted to be there. And you fought for it.

You put the discipline and the work in to try to better yourself to get that spot. And now you just show up and put your hand out. There's such an entitlement.

But let not that be true of you. Do your best. Be different. I can show you something here. I want to give you a few thoughts here from a verse in Colossians.

Would you turn to Colossians 3 here? And you'll see how this fits right in. Do your best. You'll stand out if you'll just put effort in.

[21 : 04] In Colossians 3, look how the Lord challenges us in verse 23 and 24. Talking about being a doer of the word and doing your best.

Colossians 3 verse 23, And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ.

I want to say three quick things here. You'll do your best when you take it serious. He says, whatsoever ye do, do it heartily. When you take it serious, when you take it to heart, you'll put the effort in and you'll do your best.

But when it doesn't mean anything to you, eh, eh, maybe, maybe not. Remember me telling you about Samuel mowing our grass and how he would miss stuff all over the place?

Because it just, he could care less. He didn't want to do it. But when I would mow the grass, I'd want it to look good. I'd like, I'd like to do it on an angle and different ways and just because I'm weird like that.

[22 : 22] And I like it to look different. I like it to look nice. And I don't want to mow the grass and look behind me and see dandelions all over the place because I missed half the yard.

It's just, it's in me. I enjoy that. There's something in me that it takes some reward out of that. I don't know how many of you watched on Sunday the All-Star game.

The All-Star game's a basketball game where the All-Stars, all the best players in the league are invited to play against the best players in the league and the other conference.

And they all come together last Sunday afternoon, evening or so. And I didn't watch the game, but I watched the highlights of it. But what caught my attention before I ever saw the highlights was some articles that were written just trashing the All-Star game.

And even the commissioner of the National Basketball Association was ripping on the All-Star game. because the players, they're the best players in the world, they're the best talents in the world, and they weren't even playing.

[23 : 30] They were just out there goofing around. And the winning team scored over 200 points in a normal game. It just was, it was just ridiculous. It was like a three-point exhibition and a layup drill, as one guy said.

Nobody played defense. Nobody tried to play a solid, serious game. And years ago, it used to be the East wanted to beat the West and vice versa.

Now it's just, eh, who cares? Why is it that way? Well, they don't care. The fans were there to see these, the world's best players playing against the best players.

It sounds like it's going to be amazing. And it's really just a joke. Well, why didn't they do their best? Why weren't they doing it heartily? It's because they didn't take it serious.

If you would take things serious in your life, whether it's your marriage, or your job, or raising your kids, or showing up on time for church, or being active in evangelism, doing something, if you'd take that serious, do it heartily, wouldn't you?

[24 : 41] You'd do your best. But if you don't take it serious, if it's not a big deal to you, you won't show, or you'll show up late, or you won't put in the effort.

Do it heartily. Something else, the passage says in Colossians 3, it says in verse 23, whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord. Do you know you'll do your best if you want to please

somebody?

If you want someone to be pleased, maybe it's your boss at work, if you want them to recognize your labor, and recognize your hard work, and your talent, you'll do your best.

I remember this is a, kind of a silly story to us now, but when, years ago, my wife and I, she went away to a women's retreat, on a Saturday, you know, a Friday afternoon, came back on a Saturday evening, and during that time, I had this idea, that I'm going to make, a headboard for our bed, we did not have a headboard, and I thought, I'm going to do this.

She's going to be gone, for about 24 hours, I already had my mind, of what I would need material, and I kind of had a little, sketched out how I would do it, and I thought, I can get this done, and my goal was, when she comes home, it's set up, it's finished, it's there, it's beautiful, she's happy, and just that, just pleasing her, just for her to come home, to her dump of a bed, without a headboard, in a cramped bedroom, of a double wide trailer, to have a new headboard, that I made for her, I thought, that would make my day, if I could please her like that, I was excited, and you know what I did, I did my best, should I stop, right there, or should I tell the story, I'll be quick, so I cut the board, I really worked on it, made it symmetrical, rounded it off, and did some little bit of shape, to this big thick piece of plywood, and I went to, she had this, she had a little bit of a color scheme, going in the bedroom, a little beachy-ish style, and some things, and I kind of in my mind,

[26 : 49] I took a picture, without taking a picture, I was like, yeah, I think I know what I'm looking for, I know what color she likes, and so I went to this craft store, and I knew what I needed, and I got this padding, and I got some of the thick stuff, and maybe two layers of it, and then I got, I looked around, for the right color fabric, and something that wasn't too weird, too wild, and I saw, and I know why it was, I'll tell the truth, over on the clearance bin, was these much cheaper fabrics, and I looked at them, and I thought, now there's one that caught my eye, I think that's pretty close, to the right color, it's kind of this greenish, tealish, but, I think it's pretty close, and when you're in a store, with colors everywhere, I should have brought a sample, my mistake, so I nevertheless, I bought that, I went home, I put the whole thing together, and the pattern on the, the, the, the fabric, had some lines, or something to it, so I was so cautious, to, to staple it around the back, and, and have no seams, or no wrinkles, and, and not let the pattern fall off, or be wavy, or,

I mean, I was just, I did as best as I possibly could, stretching it, stapling it, and if it wasn't right, I'd pull the staple, and redo it, and cut, and twist, and when it was done, I thought, it looked good, I was very impressed, I thought, it was good enough, and I went and put it in, and mounted it, and had it set, and it wasn't too high, it just seemed like, it was just all right, except for the color, she came home, and she was like, what did you do, I don't know her words, but it, it was obvious right away, I blew it, on the color, she appreciated the thought, but I had worked, the entire time she was gone, in the wood shop, cutting this out, with the saws, and making it just right, and being very picky about it, and sanding down the edges, and didn't want anything, and stapling things, going through all of that, I worked all the way, close to where she got home, until it was done, and I did my best, I honestly did the best, I could do, except for that color matching thing, and well, long story short, we got rid of that,

I was able to sell it to somebody, and got my money back, and second, round two is a keeper, round two worked, but why did I work so hard on it, why did I care, because I wanted her, to be happy with it, I wanted from my heart, I genuinely wanted to please her, if it was for my kids, they would have been happy, with about anything, you know, so I wouldn't have went all out, wouldn't have spent the time, but I tried my best, if you want to be a doer of the word, do your best, do what you do heartily, do it as to the Lord, there's one more thought from this verse, in verse 24, knowing that of the Lord, you shall receive the reward, of the inheritance, you'll do your best, when you know you'll be rewarded, when you know that, if you win top prize in this, you'll get a large sum of money, you'll do your best, if you know you've got something, coming out of it, you'll work harder, well knowing, that of the Lord, you shall receive the reward, then I think that's good enough, you ought to do things heartily, you ought to do what you can, and God demands our best, and I said earlier, he deserves our best, so be a doer, of the word,

I'm going to skip ahead, to something else, and let's just look at, one more quick thing, since we're right here in Colossians, and I'll wrap this up here, Colossians chapter 3, and look back at verse number 17, and whatsoever ye do, in word, or deed, do all, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, and the Father, by Him, the final thing, I want you to consider, in being a doer, of the word, is do all, to the glory of God, do all, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and where's that verse at, I

missed it, oh maybe it's in Corinthians, I don't have it written down, do all to the glory of God, if you need a rule, to live by, if you need a, a one liner, to guide your life, you can pull it from here, or from that other, somebody look that up, if you don't mind that verse, do all the glory of God, whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, where's that at,

I feel like it's in Corinthians, somebody find that if you can, if you can find it, holler it out, so I can find it, but if you need a fixed point, to take the compass, the needle in your heart, to point it somewhere, let it be that thought, of doing all, in this verse, it was in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the other one I want, it's to the glory of God, I think it's a rule, a thought that, it could guide your marriage, yeah, let's go there quick, since that's what I wanted, so in Colossians, we were there, it said do all, in the name of the Lord Jesus, 1 Corinthians 10 31, whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all, to the glory of God, can that, can that rule, not be sufficient, is that thought, not sufficient enough, to guide a ministry, or a marriage, or, a business, or a nation, to do all, to the glory of God, is there any other thought, higher than that, is there any other motivation, or goal, something higher, to shoot for it, whatever I do in life,

[32 : 57] I want to, I want to do it, to the glory of God, if your desire, is to glorify God, if that's what you want, to do, in your speech, in your work, in your home, in your attitude, in your appearance, if that's what you want, then there you go, be a doer of the word, and do all, to the glory of God, so the thought, it's simple tonight, you've heard it before, but be reminded of it, to be a doer of the word, the will of God, and the ways of God, has already been revealed to you, it's in a book, it's right there, for you to know, the answer, to your situation, is already written, in black and white, you just have to be a doer, you have to be a doer, of the word, finally, don't wait, until the judgment seat, of Christ, to figure out, what you were supposed, to be doing, the whole time, be a doer, of the word, maybe you just need, to be a hearer first, so therefore, you can be a doer, then get yourself, in here more, plugged in, and letting these pages, go through your eyes, and through your heart, and mind, more regularly, so that you can have, heard, and then can, do the word, if you're at odds, with somebody, be a doer, of the word, if you owe somebody, be a doer, of the word, the word of God, gives you the answer, and the solution, if you've wronged, somebody, or if you're involved, with someone, or something, you shouldn't be, go to the word of God, and obey it, be a doer, of the word, if you're a boss, if you're a parent, if you're a spouse, be a doer, of the word, and not a hearer only, this Bible, was given to us, to be a lamp, unto our feet, and a light, unto our path, so do it, it's not that complicated, is it in the end, you've got the book, you've heard the book, there's nothing wrong, with the book, is it, is there anything, wrong with this book, so if that's true, then be a doer, of the word, how's that for simple, let's take that with us, and do something about it, let's pray, father, as we dismiss tonight,

I pray that you, use this thought, this simple thought, and help us tonight, tomorrow, to be obedient, to the scripture, to make the choice, within our own heart, and spirit, to do what's right, no matter what, the consequences, to envision, the judgment seat, of Christ, to envision you, at our side, and help us to say, that which is right, and to do that, which is right, and pleasing in your sight, help us God, to do our best, to not be slackers, to not be lazy, to not pretend, that halfway is okay, Lord, let us be different, than that, give a drive, in each of us, to do all, and to do all heartily, as to the Lord, and then Lord, may we do all, to the glory of God, I pray that you'll be pleased, with our actions, as we're doers of the word, and not hearers only, Lord, we know, probably more, than we want to admit, we know, to do good, and so give us, the strength, and the conviction, to follow through, individually, before you, and I pray God, that you'll be pleased, because of this message, and because of our obedience, to it, in Jesus name we ask,
Amen, Amen, you're dismissed, you're dismissed,