

The Real Thing

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[0 : 00] The 28th of July. The real thing. Our passage is James' epistle, chapter 1, verse 27. 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.

It is easy to be religious. There are many religious people and there are many different religions. Jesus met many religious people in his day, people who claimed to worship God in a far better way than Jesus did.

They criticized Jesus for breaking many of the rules that these religious people had added to the simple truth given by God himself, to love God wholeheartedly and to love one's neighbor as oneself.

Jesus called some of these religious people hypocrites. There are some religious people who claim to be Christians, yet they deny the very basics of the gospel. These were the people that James, who wrote the words I said earlier, were speaking about.

What God is looking for in those who claim to be Christians is quite simply a Christ-like life. God can easily see hypocrisy and he hates that. He's looking for the real thing when we claim to be Christians.

[1 : 18] James shows what the real thing looks like. Loving Christ, pure, clean speech, caring for those who cannot care for themselves and keeping oneself unstained from the corruption that is in the world.

A Christ-like life. That is the real thing. And a prayer. Dear Lord, help me to be a real Christian as I profess your name.

Amen. Amen.