

Dear Open Door Family,

There it sat. The unopened bill. I knew it as coming (though I hoped desperately it would not) and there it was staring at me. Why not open it? Because somehow not knowing exactly how much would have to be paid was easier than actually facing the hard facts. Have you ever done that? Have you ever tried to avoid something unpleasant by not looking at it or admitting it? Many times we are like that with God. We know He is speaking to us and we just don't want to deal with. We want things to keep on rolling merrily along. Rather than dealing with the hard and uncomfortable process of facing ourselves in the mirror of God's Word. That might require repentance and an openness to God. Too many times that scares us to death. That is why I love these verses from James. There is NO room for walking away and ignoring what God is saying. Let's look at them one more time.

James 1:22-25 (ESV) *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] 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. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] 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.*

James 1:25 (NIV) But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does.

How foolish it would be to look into the mirror see dirt and grime all over your face and then walk away and go about your daily activities without cleaning up the mess. God's Word is supposed to be like a mirror showing us those areas in our lives that desperately need God's touch. Verse 25 tells us what we should do with God's Word. 1- *Look intently* with a desire to learn and grow. 2- *Continue (persevere) to do this* do NOT give up when it is not easy to understand or when something difficult is expected of us. 3- *NOT forgetting* NOT one who merely listens to or glances at God's Word. 4- *Doing it (doer)* applying the truths of God's Word personally. Not looking at how it should apply to others, but how should this shape and change ME. Holman N T Com

PRAYER: Lord God help me to Look and keep on Looking at Your Word with deep and growing desire to APPLY those things which you show me in my own life. Please Lord may I become more and more a DOER of Your Word.

Pastor Mark Kieft

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