

**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**  
**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**  
**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted May 16, 2021**

**T I T L E: Receiving the Word of God Effectively**

**T E X T: James 1: 18-25**

***Summary Statements:***

**James 1:1-12** — Perseverance in the midst of trials proves the authenticity or genuineness of our faith in Christ and Christianity. (Faith untried is suspect.)

**James 1:13-18** — The believer's victory over temptation demonstrates the strength of his or her Christian character such as his or her moral and/or ethical integrity, etc.

**James 1:19-27** — Speaks of the need for a Christian's behavior to be consistent with his or her belief, a belief that has been or is being fashioned by the word of God. (One's walk should be compatible with one's talk. Otherwise, the genuineness of one's Christian faith is suspect.)

**I. SALVATION IS A DIVINE INITIATIVE AND IS INSEPARABLY ASSOCIATED WITH ONE'S RECEPTION OF THE WORD OF GOD EFFECTIVELY. V. 18**

**A. Salvation is solely God's doing without which no one would be born again.**

**James 1:18** ----In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

**John 17:17** ---- "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

**B. The word of God is an indispensable agent of salvation and is unique in the sense that it penetrates the heart of man like no other literature or writings flowing from the intellect of man.**

**Hebrews 4:12** ---- For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23** ---- for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

- C. The word of God as living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword is without question blessed by the power of God and will not return unto HIM void but it is by no means a bully because as powerful and sovereign as the Lord is He is nonetheless the consummate gentleman.**

God is not responsible for anyone ending up in Hell. Those who do are there by their own freewill.

Mankind can reject the word of God and He will allow them that freedom but by no means will they have the privilege of determining the outcome of their rejection.

**Isaiah 55:11** ---- So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

**II. RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD EFFECTIVELY INVOLVES TRANSFORMATION IN TERMS OF BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION SOME OF WHICH IS INSTANTANEOUS AND IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS WHILE MOST OF IT REQUIRES CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH THE WORD OF TRUTH THROUGHOUT LIFE. (SANCTIFICATION) vv. 19-21**

"...some of which is instantaneous." (drug addict delivered instantly once he was genuinely born again... He said, "I never did quit drugs I simply did not want them any longer." (The Heart of the Problem is the Problem of the Heart)

- A. A change in one's behavior is expected in the life of anyone who professes to be born again. (It is impossible to be genuinely**

**related to God as His child and to remain as you are or were before your conversion.)**

- B. Changes in one's behavior as a Christian are expected and may at times be instantaneously dramatic but more often than not, they are simple and practically expressed, especially in relationships with others.**

Receiving the word of God effectively:

- 1. Quick to hear** the word of God—involves more than just listening intently. It involves hearing with the intention of fully understanding with a desire to obey as necessary and needed.

**James 1:21–25** ---- **21** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

- 2. Slow to speak** — involves bridling the tongue while pondering how to answer, desiring to respond in an appropriate manner that lends itself to gracious words although not necessarily non-confrontational.

**Proverbs 15:28** ---- The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

**Proverbs 21:23** ---- He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles.

**Colossians 4:6** ---- Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

**Proverbs 29:20** ---- Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?  
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

**Proverbs 26:4–5** ---- 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,  
or you will also be like him. 5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves, That  
he not be wise in his own eyes.

3. **Slow to anger** — involves humbly subjecting ourselves to the word of God without defensive argumentation, rationalization, or outright anger because of the truth of God's word.

**III. RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD EFFECTIVELY INVOLVES  
PREPARING OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD IN A  
PARTICULAR WAY WHICH CARRIES WITH IT BLESSINGS FROM  
THE LORD. VV. 21-25**

- A. **Putting aside all filthiness....**
- B. **Putting aside wickedness...**
- C. **Putting on humility...**