

SERMON

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, September 8-9, 2018

SERIES TITLE: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW

SERMON TITLE: How to Stay on Track

SCRIPTURE: James 1:19-27

James 1:12-15

[19] My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

[20] because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

[21] Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

[22] Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

[23] Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror

[24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

[25] But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

[26] Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

[27] Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

September 19-27, 2018

Title: How to Stay on Track

The dominant word in this passage is “deceived”. James 1:21 & 26

The worst deception is self-deception.

How do we stay on track?

1. Focus on God.

- *John 14:6* Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- Receive God’s transplanted Word.
- Only God can bring genuine change.
- God’s goal: for you to be like Christ.

2. Focus on obedience.

- Emphasize what you do and practice, not what you feel or say.
- *Matthew 7:21* “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

3. Focus on practiced faith.

- Watch what you say.
- Emphasize “the least of these”
~ *Matthew 25:40* The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
- Don’t let the world deceive you.

Lagniappe

I use the "Lagniappe" article each week to give you a "little something extra" concerning our church. This is some of the information you need.

Today I want to write about our Connect Group attendance and our total worship attendance. Here's the short version: both have done very well and are at record levels.

We've just reported to our local network of churches and to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Our average for our total worship attendance for the last year is 2192 and our average attendance for our Connect Groups for the last year is 1392. Interestingly, this past weekend (Labor Day which is normally one of the lowest attended of the year), we had more people here for worship and Connect Groups than our average for the year. That statistic bodes well for the coming year.

Would you continue to invite your friends and family to worship with us? And, if you have not gotten involved in a Connect Group, would you begin the process of praying and looking for where you should be? I or any of our pastors can help you find a place where you fit and where you can "connect."

Over the last twelve months, we have had more people joining our church than ever before. We are thankful for these new people and for their level of commitment, many of which have strong church backgrounds.

I am thrilled about the future and what God wants to do in our church and our community.