

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

BE YE DOERS

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART SIXTEEN OF SIXTY FOUR*

The religion of Jesus is one of vitality. Christianity is essentially a life to be lived. Jesus was one Who went about doing good (Acts 10:38). In writing to those brought forth "by the word of truth" (James 1:18), James exhorts them to action. Every child of God should be a doer. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves" (James 1:22). We need to make sure we are doers.

Too many people are satisfied that they have been baptized. They do not try to go on to perfection (Heb. 6:1). If we are not doing what God requires, we are "deluding" ourselves. It is easy after having been a Christian for many years to relax and think that all is well. This is the devil's message. It is easy to assume the outward appearance of interest, but it is not so easy to be a doer. We may quote, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," but find practicing it difficult. The golden rule may be on our lips, but is it in our life? The proof of sincerity is doing.

Jesus denounced those who "say and do not" (Matthew 23:3). Salvation is for those who "do the will of the Father" (Matthew 7:21; Luke 8:21). True blessedness is to those who hear the word of God and keep it (Luke 11 :28).

How many of us are "hearers only"? Listening and not doing is to fall into self deception. It is not enough to read the Bible and agree with it. We must love it and do it. "Going to church" and reading the Bible while failing to live a holy life is a delusive course.

So much is involved in our obedience to God. Our salvation from sin, growth in spiritual service, trust in God; all these are connected with our obedience. We must listen and learn with the view of doing what God says. This is the action of the wise man. "Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon the rock" (Matthew 7:24,25).

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