

LOVING THE LEAST, LAST, AND LOST

James 1.26-2.13

TRUE RELIGION

Two phrases that give us a framework not just for this section, but for the whole book of James, are found in **James 1.26, 27**. James is clear that our religion can either be “worthless” or “true.”

TRUE RELIGION: Today, we often categorize “religion” as being a set of rituals or beliefs, and we often give it a negative connotation of being empty and just “going through the motions.” But here, James uses the phrase meaning a genuine faith, love, and devotion to Jesus. This changes everything when it comes to us claiming what “religion” we are!

A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is ultimately worth nothing.

-Martin Luther

James 2.1-7

JESUS DIDN'T COME TO SAVE THE RIGHTEOUS

Matthew 9.9-13 // Luke 18.10-14 // James 2.8-10

Jesus tells us He didn't come to save the righteous or help the healthy, but the sick. Why? Because the healthy don't think they need help. They are self-righteous and in their pride they reject any help. This will lead to a contempt for others who aren't “as good” as us. But James reminds them that we have all fallen short and we are all spiritually “sick” and in need of a Savior.

LOOK AFTER

Matthew 25.31-46

James uses the phrase “look after,” and it's a phrase that denotes a deep caring for of others. Jesus exhorts us, as does James, to really care for those who are down and out, in particular the poor, orphans, and widows. He even Himself identifies with them, because these are the very ones He came to help.

The very heart of the Gospel was sending Jesus to rescue spiritual orphans. To be image bearers of God, we should also aim to be “sent” to rescue orphans, both spiritual and physical.

Make no mistake, good works do *not* earn our salvation. Rather, good works serve as an *evidence* that we have been made new and are growing in our true religion, our true love, trust, and devotion to God.

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

1 Peter 2:10

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

In our children's ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, we have classes for **newborns-5th grade**, along with a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walk-through of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Katie McGinty at Katie@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th-8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their class with their teacher and classmates for the rest of the service. Visit our website to read more about our Junior High Ministry and a walk-through of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders** stay in the service with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate high school. Our **wid-week High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM**, here at Classical Academy in the Study Hall. For more info or questions about our student ministries, email **Casey Barnes at Casey@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **James 1:26-2:13**. What stuck out to you in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

What's the difference between the Christian religion and true religion? What's the difference between belief and devotion? _____

Martin Luther said, "A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is ultimately worth nothing." How is our heart towards orphans? Widows? The poor? Are you actively involved with helping, serving, and "looking after" any of these groups? If not, how could you get involved? _____

Read **James 2:1-4**. James says if you make distinctions among yourselves you become judges with evil thoughts. Do you show any partiality to people based on their socioeconomic standing, their race, beliefs, or lifestyle? Read **Philippians 2:3-7**. _____

Read **Luke 18:10-14**. Who do you relate with more, the Pharisee or the tax collector? How do you view your sin? Do you compare it with other people's sin? Read **Romans 3:9-12 and 23**. What do these verses show us? _____

Read **Ephesians 2:4-10**. How are we saved? Why is it that no one may boast of their salvation? According to verse 10, why were you created? How then do good works prove your salvation? _____

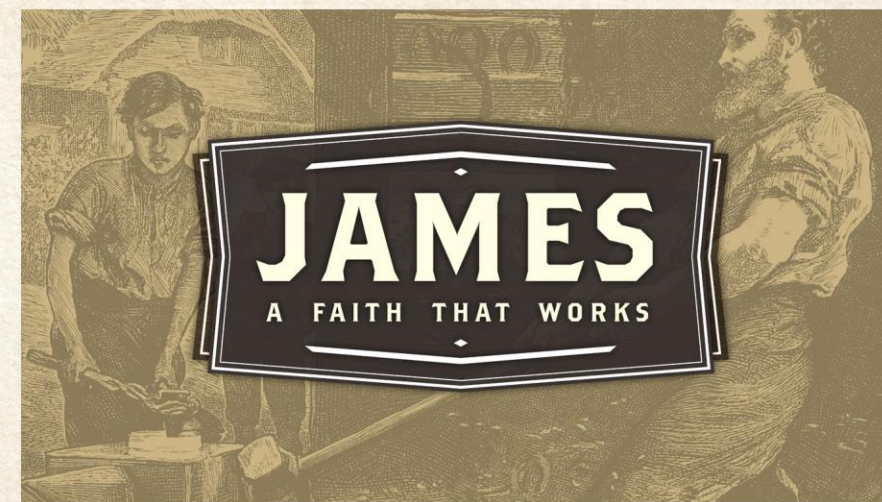
Were you convicted about sin in anyway after reading this week's text? _____

Jesus said in **Matthew 25:40**, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Your service to the least of these is service to Jesus. Take some time to thank Him for giving you the opportunity to serve Him in these ways. Spend time as a group praying for God to give you more opportunity and ways you can "look after" the least, last, and lost in our world.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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James 1:26 - 2:13 // July 16, 2017

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

