BEGOTTEN BY THE WORD OF TRUTH.

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INTRO.:

A. Read the text: James 1:18-25.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Have you ever met someone who claimed to believe one thing, but then practiced something entirely different?
    1) James, the apostle, wrote his letter to Christians who were hypocritical and double-minded.
        a. Greek meaning for "hypocrisy" – "the playing of a part."
        b. Greek meaning for "double mindedness" is "the dividing of the mind."
    2) Man's "hypocrisy" and being "double-minded" are frequently found in religion, even in the Lord's church.

C. The Christian will live by the word of truth, because…

I. IT CAN PRODUCE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE VS. 19-21.

A. Vss. 9-10 **"**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.**"**

1. *Swift to hear* – It demonstrates an eagerness to learn and a willingness to accept.
    1) The person with this quality takes advantage of every opportunity to learn (Bible classes, preaching services, Gospel meetings, lectureships, etc.) and listens with rapt attention, ready to obey.
    2) **Vs. 16**: The admonition: "Do not err, my beloved brethren."
        a. **Vs. 13:** Do not think that God tempts men to sin!
        b. **Vss. 5-7**: They were double-minded, unstable in all their ways, doubting the wisdom of God.
        c. How can we be swift to hear when winds of doctrine are constantly blowing around us?
2. *Slow to speak* - If we don't speak the word correctly, will it accomplish what it is designed to accomplish?
    1) **Vs. 26**: This includes the one who thinks they are religious.
    2) This would include those who obey only what they want to obey (**2:8-10; Leviticus 19:15, 18**).
    3) Those of this disposition should not become teachers (**3:1**).
3. *Slow to wrath* - Again, this refers to being slow to anger after hearing the word of truth.
    1) Wrath prohibits one from having godly conduct.
    2) Certain topics and studies in the word of truth can make people angry.
    3) When that person becomes angry at God's word of truth, what is the result? – **vs. 20** "… worketh not the righteousness of God."
        a. It does no good to get angry at the weatherman when he tells us the temperature will reach 105 degrees.
        b. Why blame God when we find ourselves at odds with Him?
        c. Truth does not change because we don't agree with it (**James 1:21**).
    4) As long as sin is attractive to us, as long as we want to hold on to self, we will never be in a position to accept truth.
4. The Greek meaning for implanted means "being grafted into."

1) The picture is of the plant growing down, becoming firmly rooted and fixed in the soil, and thus becoming strong and healthy.
2) This tells us how truly important the word of God ought to be in our lives.

5. Why is this important? Because when obeyed, it is able to save your souls.
   1) The Greek meaning for "able" and "power" comes from the same root word (**Romans 1:16**).
   2) It has the power to save the obedient (**James 5:19-20**).

II. HE PROVES HIMSELF BY MAKING PROPER CHANGES VS. 22-25.

A. Vs. 22 To dismiss the gospel is to deceive oneself.

1. We are responsible for proving ourselves as doers of the word.
2. The Greek meaning for doer is "to make happen."
3. This Greek word indicates that these people heard the word but did not act accordingly (**Matthew 7:21, 26-27**).

B. Vs. 23-24 The Illustration.

1. Some deceive themselves into thinking they are okay just the way they are.
   1) The "that's just the way I am" attitude.
   2) Is that how God views our shortcomings?
   3) No. God requires a change in our lives (**Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19**).
2. The Christian looks into the mirror to see what's wrong, but walks away, deceiving himself into thinking that he looks fine.
3. A Christian will never be what he ought to be until he gets himself out of the way and allows God to lead his life through the Word.

C. Vs. 25 The Result.

1. If we take the time to look at ourselves in the mirror of God's perfect law, comparing our lives with its teachings, we will see and correct our lives.
2. The word abide is the same word used in **v. 21** for "implanted."
   1) We are to continually examine ourselves (**2 Cor. 13:5**).
   2) engraft God's word in our lives, changing and fixing those flaws.

III. CONCLUSION:

A. The honest Christian lives by the word of truth, because…

1. He seeks to have the right attitude towards the truth.
2. He proves himself by making proper changes.

B. What do you see as you look into the "perfect law of liberty?"