

April 7, 2018

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title: ARE YOU A DOER?

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:22-25). It is obvious from this reading that simply hearing God’s Word is not sufficient. The hearer who refuses to act upon what he hears is like the man who looks in the mirror but immediately forgets what he looked like. It has done him no good to look in the first place. Likewise, it does one no good to hear God’s Word if he or she fails to act upon it.

The purpose of hearing the Word of God is not to tickle the ears of the hearer. God’s Word is “active and living and sharper than a two-edged sword” Hebrews 4:12). It has the power to “convince, reprove and exhort” (2 Timothy 4:2). It is God’s “power to salvation” (Romans 1:16) and, when implanted, is able to save your soul (James 1:21). The hearing of God’s Word imparts the necessary knowledge so that when one hears and does what he hears he gains the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. As James writes he “is blessed in what he does.”

When the Word of God was proclaimed on the first Jewish Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus those who heard it responded with the question, “Men and brethren what shall we **do**? (Acts 2:37). The inspired answer they received plainly revealed what was necessary for them to **do** to receive the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and they did it (Acts 2:41). What if they had been hearers but NOT doers? Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Dear reader, are you both a hearer and a doer of God’s Word? The Bible teaches that we will each be judged by what we have done in this life. 2 Corinthians 5:10 reads, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things **done** in the body, according to what he has **done**, whether good or bad.” Be doers of the Word and not hearers only!

Please accept our invitation to attend our Spring Gospel Meeting – April 8-12 with Eddy Craft of Elizabethton, TN proclaiming the saving message of salvation. More info at greenplainchurchofchrist.org or email us at greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org. Sunday services are at 10 & 11:45 am and 7:30 pm. Monday through Thursday services are at 7:00 pm.