

**A reading from James chapter 1 verses 18 through 26. You can find the reading on page 1012 in your pew Bible.**

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

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 who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 68.

Leader: God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;  
and those who hate him shall flee before him!

**People: As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive  
them away;  
as wax melts before fire,  
so the wicked shall perish before God!**

Leader: But the righteous shall be glad;  
they shall exult before God;  
they shall be jubilant with joy!

**People: Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;**

Leader: his name is the LORD;  
exult before him!

**People: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.**

Leader: God settles the solitary in a home;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

**People: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;  
sing praises to the Lord,**

Leader: to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

**People: Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
and whose power is in the skies.**

Leader: Awesome is God from his sanctuary;  
the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power  
and strength to his people.

**People: Blessed be God!**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
*Amen.***

**Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.**

*(allow them time to stand)*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

And in his teaching he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***