

What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?

A Christian Is A Doer Of The Word



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

A Christian Is A Doer Of The Word

Learn the need for Christians to be doers of God's word and how to accomplish this work

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About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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A Christian Is A Doer Of The Word

What does it mean to be a Christian? Being a Christian means a great deal. Fortunately, God has given us all the information we need to know about what being a Christian really means. As we study His saving message, we discover that a Christian is a doer of the word.

A Christian Is A Doer

When James wrote his letter to encourage and give direction to Christians, he addressed the issue of being a doer of the word of God on multiple occasions. Two notable occasions are found in James 1:22-25 and James 2:14-26. Let's consider both of these passages to see that God expects His people to be doers of the things He has instructed – and not just hearers of His word or just mentally acknowledging what He says to be true.

Not just a hearer

In James 1:22-25, James identifies the fact that those who are not doers of God's word fail to please God. "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."

Of course, the focus in this passage is to address the issue of being only a hearer of God's word. This is an individual who learns the things God desires for that person to practice. So, the problem is not in the knowledge of what is right. The problem is in actually putting that accurate knowledge into practice so as to produce actions that are pleasing to God.

It is possible for an individual, then, to know exactly who God expects him/her to be. He/she (if this individual is honest with himself/herself) can probably even identify areas in which he/she needs to change. However, there are no actions taken to make those changes or to be the kind of disciple Jesus is pleased with. You see, true discipleship involves both learning from the Master (Jesus) and following Him (by putting what He has said into action). Therefore, an individual who is a hearer only has failed to be a true disciple of Jesus!

Now, before we continue to consider this passage, I want to emphasize the importance of hearing the gospel's message. Consider verse 21. "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." With a spirit of gentleness, you must receive the word of God (the gospel of Jesus Christ, the message of the New Testament) that someone has tried to plant in your heart – like a farmer who plants seed in the soil (see Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23). But, this is not just any kind of seed. This seed (when accepted and put to work in your life) will produce the "fruits" (actions) in your life that are pleasing to God – and ultimately result in the eternal salvation of your soul!

Certainly, having the proper instruction/teaching from the gospel of Jesus Christ is essential to pleasing to God. But, as James demonstrates, it is not the equivalent of obedience! You *must* put what you have heard into practice. Think about it. All the instruction in a college

classroom does not automatically translate into a successful career. There must be an application (doing) of what has been learned. In the same way, an entire lifetime of learning from the best gospel preachers and personal Bible study does not automatically translate into a life that is pleasing to God or into eternal salvation in Heaven! There must be an application (doing) of what has been learned!

Given this truth that James expresses, consider the fact that he says some will deceive themselves by being hearers only (and not doers of God's word). Now, there are all kinds of ways you can be deceived and many different people who are trying to deceive you. But, perhaps the most difficult kind of deception to identify and change is self-deception.

James says that you deceive yourself when you are a hearer of God's word and not a doer. Perhaps, because you are convinced that you know the right things (and may even be able to teach others the right things), you deceive yourself by thinking that is enough for God to be pleased with you. Romans 2, for instance, describes how the Jewish people deceived themselves in the same kind of way. Verses 17-24 describes how they knew the law God had given them, they believed they were God's people, and believed He was pleased with them because of this. However, even though they could teach others the right things (because they possessed an accurate understanding of His commandments), they were condemned because they were not practicing the things God approved. In the same way, someone who has become a Christian in the past will not be saved just because he/she is dedicated to learning what God wants from him/her! There must be a commitment to putting God's word into practice!

Consider the picture James paints of an individual who is a hearer of God's word only. He says that this is like an individual who looks into a mirror and walks away, forgetting what he/she saw. Can you picture it? A man looks in the mirror and sees that he has several hairs sticking up on the back of his head and he has a few small pieces of food between his teeth. He identifies these things as being truth. But, he walks away from the mirror without

making any changes, convincing himself that everything is OK.

I think most people would recognize the error in this kind of action. Yet, there are many people who hear God's word every single day, understand what God wants them to do – and then walk away from it without making a single change God's word required them to make! The one major difference is the fact that walking away from a physical mirror without making the appropriate changes will only result in some short-term embarrassment. Walking away from God's word without making the necessary changes will result losing your soul in Hell fire!

In contrast with this one who is a hearer only is the one described by verse 25. This individual "looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it." Yes, he/she does hear God's word. There is an intentionality in looking into the gospel of Jesus Christ (the "perfect law" that offers "liberty"/freedom from sin). He/she has an intense longing to know the right things. But, this intense longing to know the right things also translates into an intense longing to *do* the right things (to continue in it). Notice that "this one" (not the hearer only) will be "blessed in what he does." He/she will be "blessed" (happy) because he/she has God's approval and has access to all of the spiritual blessings that are available in Jesus Christ, including the hope of eternal salvation in Heaven!

Not just a believer

Next, James emphasizes being a doer of God's word through putting faith into action. This is his main point in James 2:14-26. Let's consider this passage section-by-section.

Consider verses 14-17. "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

What is the profit of faith without works of obedience? This is a question every person who believes in Jesus Christ must consider. Is mentally

accepting the truths revealed in the Bible about Jesus enough for that individual to be acceptable to God and be saved? Or, is there more that is required? Many times in this section of Scripture, James will emphasize the fact that more is required! In fact, even in verses 14-17, James both states and demonstrates that faith without accompanying works of obedience is dead! He illustrates this truth by comparing it to the “good” that is accomplished whenever an individual sees another who is in need of food and clothing – and does not give the person what is needful to the body. Instead, he only wishes him well. This is exactly how God views the individual (even the Christian) who professes faith in Jesus Christ, but will not do the things Jesus has taught!

Consider verses 18-20. “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”

Not only is God not pleased with a faith that does not have works. But, this kind of “faith” is not even a genuine faith. Though this disobedient “faith” may acknowledge some Bible truths that are necessary for salvation, it demonstrates that there is *not* a full trust in those truths. Think about it. If you *completely* and *truly* believe in the truths God has revealed in the pages of God’s word, you would be diligent to act accordingly! Instead, this kind of workless “faith” puts your faith in the same category as the “faith” of demons (who believe and tremble, but do not live accordingly). Once again, you need to recognize that “faith without works is dead”!

Consider verses 21-24. “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

Abraham is, perhaps, the most well-known example of faith in all of the Bible. Yet, even

Abraham’s faith was accompanied by works of obedience (not by works done to earn salvation, see Romans 4). Abraham’s faith was only described as “perfect,” was “accounted to him for righteousness,” resulted in being called “the friend of God,” and resulted in justification because it was accompanied by works of obedience. Hebrews 11 helps us to see this. “By faith” Abraham obeyed God when he was told to leave his homeland and go to a place God promised to give his descendants (even though he did not know where he was going). “By faith” Abraham dwelt in that foreign country. “By faith” Abraham offered up his only begotten son on the altar in accordance with God’s instructions – believing that God would even be able to raise him up from the dead. These are demonstrations of true faith! And, if you want to be approved of God, you also must have this kind of active and obedient faith! James 2:24 says, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

Consider verses 25-26. “Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Like Abraham, Rahab provides an excellent example of an individual who demonstrated true faith by works. Now, this passage does not approve of her lifestyle or every choice that she made (she was, after all, a harlot). Instead, this passage expresses approval for this one specific act that was related to receiving the spies who were sent into Jericho, believing in God’s power to overthrow the city. In the same way, again, your faith is empty/worthless if it does not have works of obedience to accompany it. Faith without works is just as dead as the body without the spirit is dead!

Things That Prevent Us From Being Doers Of The Word

James clearly states and demonstrates that it takes obedience in order to please God. Hearing God’s word is a necessary thing. But, it is not enough

by itself. Faith (believing the right things) is a necessary thing. But, it is not enough by itself. You must be a doer of God's word – even after you have taken the necessary steps to become a Christian. But, as you consider the need to be a doer of God's word, you should recognize that there are many real obstacles to putting what you have heard and believe into action. Consider some with me now.

Unwilling to accept the truth

Sometimes, an individual hears the word of truth – and doesn't like what he/she hears. Maybe the truth challenges a deeply held belief. Maybe the truth requires a change that an individual is unwilling to make. Maybe the truth requires a difficult stance to be taken. Maybe following the truth is not viewed as pleasurable as another way is viewed.

Regardless of the exact circumstance, this individual can be like someone who looks in the mirror and does not like the truth he/she sees. However, rather than making the appropriate changes, he/she will search for a reason to think what he/she saw was not really the truth. And, he/she will search for something else to accept as truth. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 describes this kind of situation. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

Having such an unwillingness to accept the truth as truth will *always* prevent you from pleasing God and being a doer of the word in some area! Instead of having an intense desire (a hunger and thirst) to do what is *right* (Matthew 5:6), you will only accept the things that you want to be true. Thus, you will not be acting on the right foundation of truth in your life.

Failure to make applications

Sometimes, an individual hears the word of truth, accepts the truth as truth – but fails to make the appropriate applications to his/her own life. Maybe he/she can see the truth plainly and refuses to make the appropriate applications. Maybe he/she can see the truth enough to apply it to everyone else's lives,

but just not to his/her own life. Maybe he/she understands the truth intellectually, but has deceived himself/herself regarding the reality of his/her own life. Maybe he/she understands the truth, but has convinced himself/herself that the truth just does not apply to his/her life.

Regardless of how this is manifested, this individual is blinded to his/her own faults and the areas in which he/she needs to make changes. Two Bible examples of this principle will help us understand and avoid this. In Matthew 7:3-5, Jesus provides an example of the type of hypocritical judgments He had just condemned. In this example, one individual is pictured as having a beam protruding from his eye. But, rather than addressing his own problem first, he is seen as trying to remove the tiny speck that was in his brother's eye. Then, a second example is found in 1 Samuel 12 (after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah). In this passage, Nathan (a prophet) came to David speaking about a rich man who possessed a great flock and a poor man who only had one small ewe lamb that was "like a daughter" to the poor man. And, Nathan described how that rich man took the poor man's one ewe lamb to prepare for a guest, rather than taking from his own flock. Of course, David was enraged when he heard this story. However, he did not recognize that he had done the same thing in committing adultery with Bathsheba – until David was told, "You are the man!"

Failing to make the application of truth will *always* prevent you from pleasing God and being a doer of the word in some area! Though it is always easier to apply God's truth to someone else, it will only help you please God if you address your own life *first*. As Jesus indicated in Matthew 7, you need to correct the faults you see in your own life *first* – and then you will be able to see clearly to help others who need to apply God's truth to their lives.

Excuses

Sometimes, an individual hears the word of truth, accepts the truth as truth – but excuses himself/herself from being obedient to the truth. Some excuse themselves for their failure to obey the truth because they say they *cannot* obey it. Some excuse themselves for their failure to obey the truth

because they blame other people. Certainly, there is no lack of excuses people will make for why they will not obey the truth.

Regardless of the excuses people make (which some even truly believe themselves), this individual refuses to accept personal responsibility for his/her own actions or inactions. Somehow, this individual views himself/herself as having no other possible course of action except to do what is contrary to God's word. Adam and Eve provide perfect examples of this. From the very first time sin was committed by mankind, man is seen as offering excuses for his sin! When God confronted them for eating of the forbidden fruit, Adam blamed Eve and God. He said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate" (Genesis 3:12). Then, Eve proceeded to blame Satan. She said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (Genesis 3:13).

Failing to accept personal responsibility for your actions/inactions that are contrary to God's truth will *always* prevent you from pleasing God and being a doer of the word in some area! Remember, God has promised that He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to endure and overcome. Every time you are faced with the decision to do right or wrong, God has assured you that it is possible for you to do right (see 1 Corinthians 10:13)! Now, it is just up to you to make the decision to do right.

Fear

Sometimes, an individual hears the word of truth, accepts the truth as truth – but is fearful of applying God's truth in every area of his/her life. Some fear ridicule for doing what is right. Some fear how others will treat them for making the changes God requires. Some fear losing relationships. Some fear losing the things they enjoy in life. Some fear trying but failing. Some fear new experiences and new levels of commitment to serving Jesus Christ.

Regardless of what produces the fear of doing what is right, you must choose to fear God above everything! Jesus put this into the proper perspective when He told His apostles, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body

in hell" (Matthew 10:28)! The most that mankind is capable of doing to you for obeying God's word is taking your physical life away from you. However, if you do not do God's word in your life, He is capable of destroying you in the everlasting torment of Hell fire!

Failing to have the proper fear of God (rather than fearing earthly consequences) will *always* prevent you from pleasing God and being a doer of the word in some area! Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 encourages you to consider that your entire and true purpose in life is to "Fear God and keep His commandments." For, you must recognize that God will bring every work you do (or don't do) into Judgment – when you will either be welcomed into Heaven or condemned to everlasting punishment in Hell fire (see Matthew 25:46).

Indifference

Sometimes, an individual hears the truth, accepts the truth as truth – but is not committed to doing everything God desires to be done. This individual may do many good things that God desires to be done – but, then leaves other things undone. Sometimes, when it is easy or convenient, this individual will be devoted to doing God's word. But, there are other times when this individual will leave God's word of truth undone.

Regardless of how this indifferent attitude manifests itself, it fails to fully embrace service to God and fails to put His word into action in every area of his/her life. Consider this kind of situation that had developed among the Christians in the city of Laodicea. Jesus rebuked these who had once become Christians by telling them, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16). They were not fully relying on God. They were trying to live for themselves and trying to live for God (a task Jesus said was impossible to accomplish, in Matthew 6:24)!

Failing to be zealous to accomplish the will of God in your life will *always* prevent you from pleasing God and being a doer of the word in some

area! Consider how Jesus told the Laodiceans to overcome their problem of spiritual indifference. First, He demonstrated that they needed to come to Him completely and open the door for Him to have control over all of their lives. Then, He also told them to “be zealous and repent” (Revelation 3:19).

Procrastination

Sometimes, an individual hears the truth, accepts the truth as truth – but is not committed to urgently acting on the truth. Instead, this individual plans to be a doer of God’s word *someday*. Perhaps he/she is waiting for a more convenient time to obey God. Perhaps he/she is anticipating a time when there will be fewer changes that will need to be made in order to obey God. Perhaps he/she is waiting to obey God until he/she is perfect.

Regardless of how this procrastination is manifested, it delays putting God’s word into action in some area of an individual’s life. Consider the example of Felix, the governor. In Acts 24:24-26, Felix sent for Paul (while Paul was in prison) in order to hear him “concerning the faith in Christ” (verse 24). However, as Felix reasoned about “righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you’” (verse 25). Meanwhile, he was hoping that Paul would try to bribe him so as to be released from prison. So, even though Felix had heard, understood, and believed the truth (to the point that he even trembled), he refused to be a doer of God’s word at that time.

Procrastinating to obey God will *always* prevent you from being pleasing to God and being a doer of the word in some area! Even if you are only procrastinating being a doer of the word in one area of your life, it keeps you from pleasing God. Instead of procrastinating in this way, God wants you to make the most of the time and opportunities you have at the present time to do the things He has instructed you to do! 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Lack of self-discipline

Sometimes, an individual hears the truth, accepts the truth as truth – but simply fails to have the necessary self-discipline to do God’s word! In this case, there is often a desire to do the right thing. There is just not the doing of what God has commanded. Perhaps it is because an individual (though he/she wants to please God) simply is unwilling to overcome his/her own desire for the physical treasures and pleasures of life to live for the Lord.

Regardless of what the physical desire behind the lack of self-discipline is, this individual (ultimately) values something physical above being right with God. However, in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul warned that self-discipline is necessary in order to live in a way that pleases God. Specifically, verse 27 says, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

Failing to properly discipline yourself will *always* prevent you from being pleasing to God and being a doer of the word in some area! A proper demonstration of self-discipline involves refusing to do those things God has forbidden and doing those things God has commanded. It involves valuing God’s instructions above the pursuit of physical desires – to the point that you will sacrifice your own physical desires and pleasures in order to accomplish the will of God! As Jesus demonstrated in Luke 9:23-26, the proper self-discipline is even willing to deny oneself of his/her own physical life in order to be obedient to the will of God!

Lack of love

Sometimes, an individual hears the truth, accepts the truth as truth – but fails to show the right degree of love. Now, this lack of love could be for the Lord or it could be for other people. Yet, even though such an individual may be *doing* all of the right things, the activities are not properly motivated. These could be nothing more than empty displays of service to God rather than completely dedicated acts of obedience.

Regardless of whether an individual fails to show love for God or for others, God does not approve of loveless service. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 demonstrates that even though you do all of the right things in serving God and even if you would give your life for Jesus Christ by allowing your body to be burned, it would all be of no profit if you did not have love! The Ephesians (in Revelation 2:1-7) also demonstrate this point. Jesus commended them for many good things – such as their works, their labor, their perseverance, their hatred of evil and evil doctrines, etc. However, Jesus told them, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love” (verse 4). Evidently, all of the good things they were doing were being done without love and fervor for Christ.

Failing to have the appropriate motivation of love behind your obedience to God will *always* prevent an individual from pleasing God and being a doer of the word (at least in the area of love). Yes, God *does* want you to be doing the right things in your life (as we have been discussing through much of this lesson). However, He also wants you to serve Him with joy and gladness and not in a begrudging kind of way. 1 John 5:3 says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” Yes, God wants you to be on fire (zealous, passionate) about serving Christ (see Titus 2:11-14)!

Satisfaction

Sometimes, an individual hears the truth, accepts the truth as truth – but is not dedicated to doing God’s word because he/she believes that he/she has done enough to serve God. Perhaps this individual views serving God as having some kind of quota attached to it. Perhaps this individual views his/her past service as being enough to cover the debt of sin he/she has committed in the past. Perhaps he/she believes that it is time to “cut back” on his/her service for the Lord and allow the younger people to do the work that needs to be done.

Regardless of how this is manifested, this individual fails to view his/her service to God in the proper kind of way. Ultimately, this individual views the sin he/she has committed as a payable debt rather than an unpayable one. For, if an individual viewed

the sin he/she has previously committed as an unpayable debt, he/she would be devoted to the Lord throughout his/her entire life – trying to do as much as he/she could possibly do to serve God. Instead, this individual believes that there is a point at which he/she has done “enough” – and that it is time to intentionally do less for God (even though he/she could be doing more)!

Failing to understand that salvation will never be earned (no matter how many good works are done) will *always* prevent an individual from pleasing God and being a doer of the word! The apostle Paul recognized this. Once again, 1 Corinthians 9:27 says, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” Even after everything Paul had accomplished during his years of serving God as an apostle, he could be “disqualified” (lose his salvation) if he did not properly discipline himself to be a doer of God’s word at that present time! And, if this was true about the apostle Paul, it is certainly true about everyone living today!

How To Be A Doer

There are many things that try to prevent us from serving God by being doers of His word. I am sure I have not listed every potential obstacle. But, I hope these have encouraged you to be sure that you do not succumb to anything that would prevent you from doing God’s word. Now, before closing this lesson, I want to focus on how you can be a doer of God’s word.

Defining “sin”

To begin putting God’s word to work in *every* area of your life, you need to understand what “sin” really is. You see, sometimes folks fail to do God’s word because they seem to change the definition of sin to fit their own ideas. Often, folks treat “sin” as something that only applies to the *really bad* things that people do on this earth. Or, they will commonly separate “sin” into the categories of “big sins” and “little sins.”

However, “sin” is anything that violates the instructions of God. 1 John 3:4 says, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” 1 John 5:17 says that “All unrighteousness is sin.” So, sin is acting without/contrary to the laws of God (given in the pages of God’s word). Therefore, sin is doing the things God has instructed us *not* to do. And, sin is failing to do what God has instructed us *to* do. James 4:17 says, “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” And, all sin results in spiritual death (Romans 6:23)!

Learning from Jesus’ parable of the soils

So, if you want to keep yourself from sin, what must you do? Jesus’ parable of the soils (Matthew 13:3-9) should be helpful in answering this question. In Matthew 13:18-23, Jesus explained this parable and demonstrated that only the person who hears God’s word and allows God’s word to work in his/her life gains the approval of God and produces the kind of spiritual fruit God desires an individual to produce.

Most people who hear God’s word will either not allow it to penetrate their minds so as to take the appropriate actions, will allow the fears and concerns of living to please God to prevent them from doing so, or will pursue their own physical desires. However, the one who has a noble and good heart will hear, understand the word, and put it to work to produce spiritual fruit in God’s service!

A model

If you want to live your life to please God, I suggest that you revisit the things James taught in James 1:22-25. I believe we can find a model in this passage for how we can be doers of God’s word and not be hearers only or just have faith only. The model is to constantly be looking in the mirror of God’s word! Now, this applies to both areas in which God has forbidden things from being done and to those things God has commanded to be done.

Remember, God’s word is the “perfect law of liberty” we all must look into and use to evaluate whether we are pleasing to God or not. So, you must do a few things. First, you must hear what God’s

word teaches. This will help you see the picture God’s word wants your life to be like. Second, you must honestly reflect on that picture and compare your life to it. If you do this, you will be able to identify the areas in which your life falls short of the picture God has painted. Third, you must be a doer of the word. That is, you must simply take the appropriate actions to bring your life into agreement with what God’s word desires you to be.

You need to apply this model to sins of commission (i.e. doing things that God has forbidden). As you study God’s word, you will discover many things God condemns. He does not want these things to have any part in the life of a Christian. These include things like fornication, lewdness, idolatry, envy, covetousness, immodest dress, forsaking the assembling together of the local church, etc. And, as you see these (and many other) truths in God’s word, you should diligently reflect on your life to see if you are practicing anything God has commanded that you do not practice. If you do identify something in your life that God has forbidden you from practicing, you must determine to be a doer of God’s word! You must simply decide that you will not overlook the sin that is in your life and determine that you will eliminate it from your life (no matter what it costs you)!

Then, you also need to apply this model to sins of omission (i.e. failing to do what God has instructed to be done). As you study God’s word, you will discover many things God wants His people to be doing. These are to be made part of the Christian’s life. This includes things like fulfilling your God-given role in the family, doing your part as a member of Christ’s church, serving and doing good to others, teaching the gospel to those who are lost in sin, etc. And, as you see these (and many other) truths in God’s word, you should diligently reflect on your life to see if you are actively engaged in those things God wants you to be doing. If you identify that you are failing to do those things God has instructed you to be doing, you must determine to put yourself to work in order to accomplish those responsibilities! You must simply decide that you will be a doer of what God has instructed you to do (no matter what it costs you)!

Conclusion

A true follower of Jesus Christ is not just someone who hears God's word or believes it to be true. A true follower of Jesus Christ is someone who is a doer of God's word! And, you must recognize that the Bible promises eternal consequences for those who fail to be doers of God's word (see 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). On the other hand, God says that Jesus Christ is the "author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9)! Determine that you will be a doer of God's word – no matter what God's word requires of you!

Study Questions

1. A Christian Is A Doer

List some observations from James 1:22-25 about being a hearer of God's word *only*.

List some observations from James 2:14-26 about being a believer *only*.

2. Things That Prevent Us From Being Doers Of The Word

How can an unwillingness to accept the truth prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can a failure to make applications prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can excuses prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can fear prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can indifference prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can procrastination prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can a lack of self-discipline prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can a lack of love prevent you from being a doer of the word?

How can satisfaction prevent you from being a doer of the word?

3. How To Be A Doer

What is sin? Why is it important to properly define "sin"?

What can you learn about doing God's word from Jesus' parable of the soils?

How will following the model explained in James 1:22-25 help you be a doer of the word? Apply this model to both sins of commission and sins of omission.