

Scripture Memory and Meditation

A Very Important Activity for Children and Parents Alike

James 1:21

Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (NASB)

... receive with meekness the **engrafted** word, ... (KJV)

Before jumping into discussion about the activity, let's look at a few key details from this passage that will illuminate the truth we are looking at today.

An In-depth Look at James 1:21 – Eph. 5:33

Context: James 1:19-27

^{1:19}This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not **achieve the righteousness of God**. ²¹Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to **save your souls**. ²²But prove yourselves **doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does. ²⁶If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. ²⁷This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and to keep oneself unstained by the world*.

The context seems to be the role of God's Word in our lives. The result of it is our sanctification. Sanctification is the "present tense" of our salvation.

Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (NASB)

διὸ ἀποθέμενοι πᾶσαν ῥυπαρίαν καὶ περισσεῖαν κακίας ἐν πραύτητι, δέξασθε τὸν ἔμφυτον λόγον τὸν δυνάμενον σῶσαι τὰς ψυχὰς ὑμῶν.

With that in mind, let's look at our key verse. The picture behind "**putting aside**" is like that of a person taking off soiled, sweaty garments and throwing them to the ground. What we are to cast aside is any **impurity**

that defiles us and any vice. It is a single, decisive act that is either preceding or simultaneous to the main verb, "receive."

So that is how we are to prepare for the next part of the verse.

"**Receive**" is the key verb in the sentence and it is imperative. It is the same word used about the Bereans in Acts, "... they **received** the word with great eagerness, ..." (Acts 17:11) and the Thessalonians, "... you **accepted** it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, ..." (1 Thess. 2:13). It is also translated "welcome" (NET).

Of course, what we are to receive is God's Word. But let's look carefully at the adjective that precedes it, "engrafted" (KJV, YLT), "implanted" (NASB, NIV, NRSV, NET). What is the image you get from these translations?

We are told that we are to have an attitude of **meekness** or humility. Really this is describing a "teachable spirit." It is the attitude of admitting that you don't know everything and being willing to learn.

Dr. Curtis Vaughan explains it as, "to so open the inner self to the influence of God's Word that its truth is transfused into the heart."

How can you actually allow God's Word to have that level of access to your soul so that it can have such influence?

What is the result of receiving God's engrafted Word? The object of the Word's benefit is your soul. God's Word sanctifies us, and in that way, God's Word is able to **save our souls**.

Vaughan – "The Word of God, welcomed and rooted in the Christian's heart, is used by the Spirit to promote holiness, stimulate spiritual growth, develop character, and generally produce the things that accompany salvation. In this way it is 'able to save.'"

Scripture Memorization and Meditation

Scripture reading, memorization, and meditation are the best way to fulfill this passage.

Discuss the difference between memorization and meditation.

What is meditation? Ruminating – "chewing the cud"

Meditation is really the activity where God's Word becomes a part of you.

Why Memorize and Meditate on Scripture?

Jas 1:21 Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Job 22:22 "Please receive instruction from His mouth, And establish His words in your heart.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Ps 119:11 Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.

Ps 40:8 I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart."

Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

Ps 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."

John 15:3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."

John 8:31 Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³²and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Ps 119:97 O how I love Thy law! It is my **meditation** all the day.

Ps 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he **meditates** day and night.

Pr 2:1 My son, if you will receive my sayings, And treasure my commandments within you, ... ¹⁰For wisdom will enter your heart, And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ¹¹Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you,

What are some reasons to memorize and meditate on Scripture? _____

Memorization Hints:

Choose very meaningful passages.

Choose reasonably sized passages, especially at first.

Pick a good translation, then stick with it.

Use Scripture cards.

Try Scripture in mp3 on an mp3 player.

Get an accountability partner.

Work on it as you go to sleep.

Meditation Hints:

How? Go over it word by word, phrase by phrase, extracting every hint of meaning and insight out of it.

When? As you go to sleep is a great time for this.

Recommended Passages:

Short:

2 Chron. 16:9a; Ps. 55:22, 86:11, 119:9, 11, 97, 105; Prov. 1:10, 21:1, 22:3; Ecc. 5:2; John 4:24, 13:35, 14:6; Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9, 13, 17; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 6:1; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 11:6

Medium:

2 Chron. 7:14, Ps. 138:8; Prov. 6:10-11; Jer. 29:11; Mt. 28:18-20; Luke 9:23-25; John 3:16, 14:12; Rom. 1:16-17, 8:28, 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:7, 10:13, 15:58; 2 Cor. 10:4-5, 12:9-10; Gal. 5:22-23, 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16-17; Heb. 4:15-16, 12:1-2

Sections:

Deut. 5:7-21, 6:4-9; Josh. 1:7-9; Prov. 3:5-7; Is. 6:1-3, 40:28-31; Jer. 29:11-13; Eph. 2:8-10; 5:15-21, 21-33, 6:10-17; Phil. 2:1-11, 3:7-10, 4:4-9, 10-13; Col. 2:13-15; James 1:2-8

Chapters:

Ps. 1, 23, 34, 103; Is. 53, 55; Mt. 5, 6, 7; Jn. 14, 15; Rom. 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14; 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5, 6; James 1