



**Self-deception or transformation?**

Thinking that leads to Self-Deception:

- Think that **hearing** God's Word = **believing** God's Word – 1:22
- Think that **studying** God's Word = being transformed by God's Word – 1:23-24
  - **Entertainment** value
  - **Educational** value
  - Eternally Experiential value
- Think your heart has been changed when your **tongue** is out of control – 1:26

How to be truly transformed by God:

- Receive the Word of God with a **humble** heart and mind – 1:21
- **Expose** yourself to God's Word – 1:22 *hear*
- **Obey** what you **hear** from God's Word – 1:22 *doer*
- See God's Law as granting **freedom** rather than slavery – 1:25

Q: Why?

A: Jesus perfectly fulfilled the moral requirements of The Law. His accomplishments are credited to us through our faith in Him.

- **Persevere** in God's Word – 1:25
- Reach out to **orphans** in their affliction (same word for 'tribulation.')
- Reach out to **widows** in their affliction – 1:27
- Remove soul-**stainers** that affect your closeness with God and destroy your impact on others – 1:27
  - We do not abstain from soul-stainers because we fear losing our salvation; we abstain because we love Christ and want others to see Him in us.
  - Others admiring our character qualities must always go to the source of those admirable qualities; Jesus Christ.

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