



July 26 – Rev. Hugh Barlett

James 1:26–27 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. ²⁷ 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.

Christ calls us to worthwhile witness

The “way we speak” should match “what we speak”

Make room for deeds that meet people’s needs

Let our witness be unstained by the world

Christ calls believers to speak the truth wisely and boldly. Also, how can we speak the truth in love? How do we speak boldly and humbly?

What does it mean to “bridle your tongue”?

How has the “way” you have said something contradicted “what” you are saying?

How does mercy for the “widow and orphan” witness to the gospel?

What people or groups could be the “widows” and “orphans” of today?

How should the mission of the church balance the “word “ and “deed” of the gospel?

How does “Keep oneself unstained from the world” become a essential part of the mission of the church ?



July 19th- Hugh Barlett

Revelation 3:14–22 “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. ¹⁵ “ ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

Let your desperate needs lead us to a deep relationship with Jesus

Christ the Amen, the fulfiller of all of God’s promises; the Faithful & true witness, the one who perfectly obeyed God even unto death; and the beginning of God’s creation, the first born from the dead, the author of the new creation, longs for us to become passionate in our relationship with Him.

Jesus sees our desperate needs beneath our self-sufficiency

Jesus offers His grace in ways we can get

Jesus seeks us to share life with us

Jesus’ victory invites us to rest & rule over life

How did Christ become the Amen—the finish or completion of all our prayers?

How is Christ the first born of the new creation (Colossians 1:18); in Christ, we are a new creation, (2 Corinthians 5:17); and He who made us the first fruits of all creatures (James 1:17)? To what is this referring?

How is it both encouraging and sobering to know that Jesus knows our works?

What is the attitude of the Laodicean church?

How is it helpful for us to see the depth of our need in verse 17?



How does Christ invite the church into relationship?

How does Jesus move us from complacency to conquering?