***“Do You Have Good Religion?”***

***James 1:26-27***

*Series: “A Journey Through James”*

**Thesis: Authentic religion is seen in one’s speech, heart, and walk.**

Critical Question: How does one have authentic religion?

1. Those with Authentic Religion Have A **CONTROLLED** Tongue
2. This must be a *Personal* Decision
3. This *Proves* Discipline
4. This *Prevents* Destruction

“The tongue is the index of the heart… There are many sins of the tongue because there are many sins of the heart.” - Theodore H. Epp, *James: The Epistle of Applied Christianity*, pg. 113

II. Those with Authentic Religion Have A **COMPASSIONATE** Heart

1. We should share in *Unselfish* Compassion
2. We should share in *Undelegated* Compassion
3. We should share in *Unending* Compassion
4. Because we have received *Undeserved* Compassion

“Religious observances, no matter how perfectly observed and appropriately reverent, are empty if there is no concern for the needy.” - R. Kent Hughes, *James: Faith That Works*, pg. 83

III. Those with Authentic Religion Have A **CLEAN** Life

1. They Have A *Godly* Life
2. Because They Have A *Guarded* Life

“When James admonishes readers to keep themselves ‘unstained' from the world, he does not assume that Christians will cease to have anything to do with the affairs of ordinary life. The phrase must be intended in the metaphorical sense of a reorientation of values so that the individual no longer lives according to the standards of the world.” - Pheme Perkins, *Interpretation: First and Second Peter, James, and Jude*, pg. 106-107