

“PURE RELIGION”

(Jas. 1:27)

“Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this,” Jas. 1:27. We are interested in the words **“pure,” “religion”** and **“undefiled.”** The fact there is a **“pure religion”** indicates such a thing as a “defiled religion.” – such is described in Col. 2:8, *“Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ: 9 for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”* For there to be “pure religion,” it is taught by God and is therefore from God. Pure religion is that which has come from God, recorded on the pages of his holy word.

In Acts 26:5 we find this statement: *“having knowledge of me from the first, if they be willing to testify, that after the strictest sect of our **religion** I lived a Pharisee.”* In this text the word “religion” is used to refer to the system or Law given by Moses; so, in the New Testament the Law given by Jesus is said to be a “religion,” Jas. 1:25. This *“Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,”* Rom. 8:2 is then called a *“religion!”* Our *“religion”* is that which has been revealed to us from God and is designated as **“pure religion.”**

Then there is the third word in Jas. 1:27, **“undefiled.”** It is said of Jesus, *“For such a high priest became us, holy, guileless, **undefiled**, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens,”* Heb. 7:26. This text designates Jesus as being: “holy,” “guileless,” “undefiled,” and “separated from sinners!” I would conclude from this passage that he was without sin!

At this point, in our article, you will do well to note I Pet. 1:22-23, *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently: 23 having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth.”* Should we ask ourselves, How are we made **“pure”** through the word of God? The text says, *“through obedience to the truth.”* The next verse says, *“through the word of God.”* We purified our souls by obeying the Word of God – obeying the Gospel, Rom. 1:16. This is what is being talked about in Rom. 6:17-18, *“But thanks be to God, that whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; 18 and being; made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness.”* It is through the *“pure, undefiled, religion”* we are made free from sin and stand **“pure”** (undefiled) before God.

Since we have been made **“pure”** *“through obedience to the truth,”* we stand approved (**undefiled**) before God. *“7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin,”* I Jno. 1:8-9. In this state we are “pure” and “undefiled” before our God; because we have been cleansed from our sins and stand **“undefiled”** before our Lord and Savior. All of this is made possible because of a **“RELIGION”** that is *“pure”* and *“undefiled.”* If we follow the “pure and undefiled religion,” conform to it and obey it, we will be “pure and undefiled!” I trust each and every individual who reads this article will determine to follow the teachings of the Lord; so, ultimately they shall be permitted to enter the Heavenly City, Matt. 25:46. Caa

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