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USELESS RELIGION?

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless." James 1:26 NKJV

Did you ever stop to think that your religion is useless? This is a statement of poignant interest to me. Actually it should interest all of us who claim to be religious or have religion.

I realize the word religion is also controversial. For the purpose of this thought, the word religion is pertaining to one who practices a faith in God. The writer James should cause us all to pause and reflect on our own life. Would you like someone to see your religion or your commitment to God as useless? In other words, because of one's inability to think before speaking, others may reject our faith and see it as meaningless. Our words can do damage to the Kingdom of God or it can be an asset to the Kingdom of God.

James also states in verse 19-20, "...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." How often have you wished you never said something? How often have you wished you remained calm and never said something? We probably will never know how many people we have turned away from receiving Jesus because our words made our faith (religion) appear useless. I shudder at the thought...wow Lord, what have we done?

I am certain there are times I have fallen prey to this regretful behavior. Sometimes I have gone back and apologized for things I have said, but there isn't any guarantee damage was not done, even if God forgives me. We each should pray daily for the Lord to govern our tongue so we do not render our religion useless to those who we desire to draw to Christ. We should ask God to bridle our tongue so we do not destroy a weak believer and they decide there's nothing to walking with God. We all must make a greater effort to govern our words because who wants a useless religion?

Residing in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the former Senior Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. She is also the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures.

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