

SERMON NOTES

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B* Sept. 1, 2024
Sermon by the Reverend Andrew Lazo

Deuteronomy 4:1-9 * Psalm 15 * James 1:17-27 * Mark 7:1-23

Every Good and Perfect Gift

Scripture: James 1:22: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

- ❖ Wouldn't it be easier if being a Christian meant just keeping a list of **R**_____?
- ❖ The Pharisees thought the **L**_____ would lead to **L**_____.
- ❖ St. Paul calls the Law “**H**_____, **R**_____, and **G**_____.”
- ❖ The trouble comes when we put **R**_____ in front of our **R**_____ with God.
- ❖ James reminds us that the **L**_____ serves as a sort of **M**_____—and that is pretty bad news for us.
- ❖ Jesus offers a **B**_____ **W**_____, and it all **B**_____ at this **T**_____.

Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 35:4-7a * Psalm 146 * James 2:1-17 * Mark 7:24-37

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. How might our lists of dos and don'ts fool us into thinking we can earn God's favor?
2. What might it look like if I made a list of my deliberate sins in the last week?
3. Does that list make me despair? Or marvel at God's mercy, which has already wiped that list away?
4. When someone sins against me, do I keep a record of wrongs, or plead for God's mercy for them?
5. How can I be a doer of the word this week, not just a hearer?

PRAY:

- ◆ **Thank God** for all He has forgiven me for this week.
- ◆ **Ask God** to put what learn from Him into action.
- ◆ **Ask for help** in realizing God's mercy for myself and in showing it to others
- ◆ **Pray** for the needs of the church, my group, and myself.