The Believer - Responsibilities to the Word of God

James 1:22-25 - James' point here is that he does not want us to be deceived by just listening to the Word of God but to respond to it by our obedience.

The listener should understand his or her responsibilities before, during and after the Word is preached or taught to us.

1. Before the Word:

We must be physically ready. Some of our greatest temptations come when we are hungry, tired, and sleepy. (Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 26:39-43)

Questions:

What preparation did you make on Tuesday for Wednesday?

On Saturday before Sunday?

2. Responsibilities During the Sermon or Bible Lesson

The whole purpose of sitting in the listener's seat is exposure to the message for the purpose of personal confrontation, information, conviction, motivation.

Questions:

Do we come under the Word of God to have our thinking, attitude and behavior changed by the Word of God? (Hebrews 4:12)

Or have we become like the people of Ezekiel's day? (Ezekiel 33:30-32)

3. Responsibilities After the Word is Preached or Taught

The proving ground for sermons is on the other side of the final "Amen".

Review: The Bible promotes each believer to review the message, re-examine the text and context of the lesson. (Acts 17:11).

Three reasons why "you" should review the message:

To see if the message was:

1. Biblical - Was it what God said?
2. Spiritual - How has it changed you in your thinking, attitude, and behavior?
3. Practical - Preaching without application may serve the mind. Preaching with application requires serving Christ. In other words . . . Can I live it?!