





**Fulfilling James 1:27**

# James 1:27 and Benevolence

- **How often have you heard...?**
  - James 1:27 is directed to the individual and not to the local church?
  - Galatians 6:10
  - Churches ought to be more concerned with spiritual needs than physical needs.
  - Benevolence is for needy saints.
- **None of these are wrong, but that is not the point of James 1:27.**

# James 1:27

- **Among other things, God defines pure and undefiled religion as visiting orphans and widows.**
- **Individual Christians should be actively involved in this!**
- **Why orphans and widows?**
  - **Helpless. Have both lost their leader and provider.**

# James 1:27

- **What is involved in “visiting” orphans and widows?**
  - Merely lamenting the unfortunate situation?
  - Sending money to an institution to provide for their care?
  - Personally, actively investing in their welfare?
- **Vine: “to look upon, care for, exercise oversight.”**
  - Luke 1:68, 78, 79

# OT Passages

- **Note God's personal protection for the less fortunate in Psalm 68:5; Psalm 146:5-9.**
- **God expects it of His people.**
  - **Exodus 22:22-24**
  - **Deuteronomy 10:18, 19**
  - **Jeremiah 7:4-7**
- **Righteous Job cared. Job 29:7, 12-16; 31:16-23**

# NT Passages

- **Jesus taught on the subject.**
  - **Acts 20:35**
- **Jesus' life was devoted to those who the religious elite would not touch.**
- **Jesus expects it of His followers.**
  - **Matthew 25:31-40**
- **James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:17**

# Differences

- **For the most part, being widowed or orphaned during biblical times was much harder than it is today.**
- **Today, help is more readily available to orphans and widows.**
- **Yet, there is work to do.**



# Practical Suggestions

- **Ways to help:**
  - **Visit widows.**
  - **Visit orphans.**
    - **Adopt!**
    - **Support those who adopt.**
  - **Spend time with those who are lonely.**
  - **Take care of your own.**
  - **Have a heart that cares for the needy.**