

# An Orphan's Hope

Orphan Sunday – Pastor Gary Combs – November 2 , 2014 – James 1:27

James 1:27 (ESV) Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

## How to “visit” the world’s orphans with gospel hope:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ as God saw ours.

Acts 7:34 (ESV) I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them.

Genesis 16:13 (NLT) Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, “You are the God who sees me.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ as God came to us.

Luke 1:68 (ESV) “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

Matthew 25:35-40 (ESV) For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you **visited** me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we... **visit** you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ as God has cared for us.

James 1:27 (NLT) Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

John 14:18 (ESV) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (This is in the context of Jesus saying, “I go to prepare a place for you” in my Father’s house.)

Romans 8:15-16 (NLT) ...you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.