

INTRODUCTION

I. Who is the author of the book of James? vs. 1

A. How many “James” are mentioned in the NT?

1. James (Apostle) Son of Zebedee. Matt. 10:2, Mk. 3:17, Lk. 6:14, Acts 1:13
(killed in AD 44 - Acts 12:2) *Died to early to write it*

2. James (Apostle) Son of Alphoeus. Mt. 10:3 *Not well known*

3. James the less or younger Mk 15:40 (Matt 27:56) *#2 & 3 may be the same*

4. James the brother of Judas. Lk 6:16, Acts 1:13 *#2 & 4 may be the same*

5. James the half brother of Christ. Mk 6:3 *Probably this one*

B. What do we know about James?

1. Oldest of Mary’s sons. Matt. 13:55, Mk. 6:3 *4 brothers and at least one sister*

* What false doctrine do these two verses refute? *Mary’s perpetual virginity*

2. Didn’t believe in Him. Matt. 12:46-50, Mk. 3:21, Jn. 7:3-6

3. Saved after the resurrection. Acts 1:14, 15:13, I Cor. 15:7

4. Leader of Jerusalem church. Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18; Gal. 1:18-19, 2:9

5. Brother to Judas. Jude 1:1

6. Historians write:

a. He was stoned as a martyr in 64 AD

b. He was know as “the just” or “the righteous” by both Christians and non-Christians.

C. Why does he not identify himself as the brother of Christ? vs. 1 *ashamed, not worthy*

II. When was this general or Non-Pauline Epistle written? 45-50 AD

A. Cp. to Paul’s earliest book - Gal. 48-49 I Thess. 50 II Thess. 51-52 I Cor. 53-55

B. General Epistles are called such because they were not written to any particular church or individual.

List the other General Epistles.

James, I & II Peter, I, II, & iii John, Jude (Hebrews)

C. James' writing and teaching are much like Christ's.

"James says less about the Master than any other writer in the New Testament, but his speech is more like that of the Master than the speech of any of them." D.A. Hayes

III. General information about James

A. What OT book is James compared with? [Proverbs](#)

B. The theme of James is practical Christian living.

C. For whom was this letter especially written? vs.1 cp. I Pet. 1:1 [Diaspora \(Saved Jews\)](#)

D. What kind of servant was James? vs. 1 cp. Jude 1; Titus 1:1, II Pet. 1:1, Rev. 1:1
[Bond slave](#)

E. How many times does James address his readers as "brethren" or "my brethren"? 15x

JAMES 1

I. The Purpose of Trials [Count = lead](#)

A. What does he mean by "joy"? cp. Jn. 16:20; Acts 5:41

1. Comes from faith. Rom. 15:13
2. Comes from hope. Rom. 5:2 (cp. Heb. 12:2)
3. Comes from fellowship. Rom. 12:15; I Thess. 3:9
4. Is in the Lord. Phil. 3:1, 4:4
5. Rejoice "in" not "because of" I Pet. 1:6

B. What does he mean by "temptations" in vs. 2? cp. I Pet. 4:12-13

* *Be sure who you are suffering for?* I Pet. 4:15-16 (2:20)

1. Tests are given to:
 - a. I Cor. 8:2-3 – [Show us what we know & don't know](#).
 - b. Psa. 105:17-19 – [Prepare for future tests](#).
 - c. Job 23:10 – [Purify](#).
 - d. Jas. 1:12 – [To grade](#).
 - e. Heb. 12:7 (*Endure = patience*)

* *Not "Praise the Lord anyway", but "Praise the Lord"!*

2. If you want to be Godly, you must take the tests. II Tim. 3:12

C. What does he mean by "patience" in vs. 3? cp. Jas. 5:11; Rom. 12:12

Greek = "to remain under"; endurance, steadfastness

1. Who exemplified patience in testing in the OT? cp. Jas. 5:10-11
2. What gives Christians the ability to be patient in tribulation? Rm. 5:2-3, 8:24-25, 12:12

* *Note that trials do not help us when we bring them on ourselves.* I Pet. 2:20

D. Can a Christian be “*perfect*”? cp. Phil. 3:15, I Jn 1:8, 10

1. For a Christian, perfection is to **grow up**. (I Cor. 14:20 (13:11). Heb. 5:13-14
2. Growth or **maturity** comes from **nutrition (Word)**. I Jn 2:5, II Pt. 1:4
3. We are helped in our growth by **Spiritual Leaders**. Eph. 4:11-13, Col. 1:28, 4:12

Name some Spiritual Leaders.

E. What is the “*perfect work*” of patience? Rom. 5:2-4 Continuing cycle of growth. **Need to be grow? Time, knowledge & experience**

F. What does “*entire*” mean? vs. 4, cp. I Thess. 5:23 **Well-rounded square, balance.**

II. The Purpose of Faith

A. Define Wisdom vs. 5

1. Prov. 1:2-7 (9:10) **The use of knowledge in a practical or successful way. Skill.**
2. I Cor. 1:18-25 **Wisdom is to glorify God.**
3. Jas. 3:13-18 **Wisdom is being moral.** **Triangle – Knowledge, wisdom, instruction, understanding**

* “*Ask*” - **Keep on** asking, not a one time experience. Matt. 7:7; Prov. 2:1-7

B. What does it mean “*and upbraideth not*” vs. 5 **The only dumb question is the one not asked.**

C. It is important to understand the Bible teaching on faith. Matt. 21:22

1. Definition (Heb. 11:1)
2. The focus of faith is God Heb. 11:6 Peter took his eyes off of Jesus Mt. 14:29-30
3. Faith on mans part is two-fold.
 - a. **Convinced** Mark 11:24, Rom. 14:23
 - b. Willing to meet the **requirements**. Luke 17:3-5
4. Faith
 - a. Is not a **magic** formula. Acts 19:13-16
 - b. Does not come without **work**. Mark 9:28-29 (18)
 - c. Is not being **perfect**. Rom. 4:19-21

*Faith is not **overcoming** God’s reluctance; it is laying **hold** of His highest willingness.* (Psa. 37:4)

D. Wavering comes from a lack of **knowledge** and **experience**. Eph. 4:14 Like body surfing or boogie boarding or surfing. How many?

E. Why don't we receive "anything" from God? Jas. 4:3

F. What does it mean to be "double minded"? vs. 8; Jas. 4:8; cp. Matt. 6:24

III. The Purpose of Life James 1:9-12

A. What is the connection between the teachings on being poor or rich and what we have already studied?

1. vs. 9 Joy in vs. 2 is chara = "gladness, joyful". Rejoice in vs. 9 = "to glory in or to boast"

2. vs. 10 Rich are unstable or double minded because they have two masters. Mt. 6:24

B. By using the term "**brother**" James is reminding us that the church is made up of many different backgrounds. Gal. 3:26-28

C. When is the brother or low degree and the rich brother to rejoice? vs. 9-10 cp. vs. 2

1. How is the brother of low degree exalted? vs. 9

2. How is the rich brother made low? vs. 10

* What is the practical application of these verses? I Corinthians 11:17-22, James 2:1-9

D. Where in the OT does James quote from in verse 11? Is. 40:6-7, Ps. 90:5-6

E. What is meant by temptation in verse 12? Cp. Vs. 2 to vs. 13

F. What is another word that could be used for tried in vs. 12? Approved – "tried & tested, stamped approved or genuine (UL) Job 23:10

G. Where else in scripture is this crown promised? Rev. 2:10

1. What other crowns are we told of in Scriptures? I Co. 9:25 - mastery, I Th. 2:19 – rejoicing (souls), II Tim. 4:8 - righteousness, I Pt. 5:4 – glory, Rev. 2:10 - Life

2. When will we receive our crowns? I Cor. 3:14

H. What should our attitude be when we are tempted? I Peter 1:6,7

IV. The Purpose of God Jas. 1:13-18

A. When does a trial or test allowed and sent by God become a temptation? vs. 13 When we choose to cheat. Don't blame the test or the teacher for your cheating or failure. Gen. 3:12

B. Why can't God tempt anyone? vs. 13 Because He is Holy and His character would not allow Him to do what is morally wrong.

C. Where lies the real root of temptation? Mark 7:20-23

D. What is lust and what are the 3 sources of lust? vs. 14 cp. I John 2:16 "The **normal**



appetites or desires of life satisfied out of God's will." i.e. Heb. 13:4

1. Lust of **flesh** Gn. 3:6, I Co.. 6:12-13

2. Lust of **eyes** Gn. 3:6, Pr. 4:23

3. **Pride** of **life** Gn. 3:6 (3:1)

* Who does James not say "*made us do it*"? cp. 4:7

E. What picture does James draw by using the phrases "drawn away" and "enticed"? vs. 14

Fisherman & lure. (**Jerk on one end of a line waiting for a jerk on the other end**)cp. II Cor. 11:3

F. It is hard to abort sin when it has already **conceived**. Prov. 1:10

G. Does lust always bring forth sin? vs. 15 cp. Matt. 5:28

H. Death is **seperation**. vs. 15 cp. Is. 59:2; Rom. 6:23

I. To err means to be **deceived**. vs. 16 cp. Gal. 6:7; I Cor. 6:9; 15:33

J. What do we learn about the goodness of God in vs. 17? cp. Matt. 7:11

1. God gives only **good** gifts. Rom. 8:28

2. God gives only **perfect** or **complete** gifts. Rom. 8:28

3. God gives gifts **continuely**. "**cometh down**"

4. God will **keep** on giving gifts.

* How does this tie in with being tempted? cp. I Cor. 10:13; II Sam. 12:7-8

* *Satan never gives any gifts - you end up paying for them.*

K. What is the imagery of "father of Lights" and no "shadow of turning"? cp. I Jn 1:5 **Being in the center of God's will. Sun-dial at high noon.**

L. How are we born-again (**begat**)? vs. 18 cp. John 1:13 (also II Peter 3:9)

M. Compare conception in vs. 15 and conception in vs. 18. I Peter 1:23

N. **Jesus** is the firstfruits of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:23) **Believers** have the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:23) and the **Jews** were the firstfruits of salvation.

Rom. 16:5, Rom. 1:16 and Jas. 1:1 (Prov. 3:9)

V. The Purpose of the Word James 1:19-27

A. Receive the word vs. 19-21

* What is the "*wherefore*" there for? **The Word gave you new birth and it will give you new life.**

1. What does the Bible teach about hearing? vs. 19

God gave us two ears and one mouth----We should listen twice as much as talk.

- a. Rom. 10:17
- b. Matt. 13:9
- c. Mark 4:24
- d. Luke 8:18
- e. Matt. 13:13
- f. Heb. 5:11

2. What does the Bible say about speaking?

“Even a fool, as long as he keeps silent, is regarded as wise.”

- a. Prov. 10:19
- b. Prov. 17:27-28
- c. Col. 4:6
- d. Luke 6:45

3. What does the Bible say about “wrath”?

Temper is such a valuable thing, it is a shame to lose it.

- a. Prov. 14:29
- b. Prov. 16:32
- c. Eccl. 7:9
- d. Eph. 4:26
- e. Mark 3:5

4. What does “*engrafted*” mean? cp. Matt. 13:1-9, 13-23 **implanted**

- a. What is filthiness? cp. Jas. 1:21 to I Pet. 2:1-2 **dirty, cheap**
- b. What is superfluity of naughtiness? **Superabound, in excess, “overkill. Naughtiness = worthless, badness, depravity**
- c. What is meekness? **Power under control**

5. What does the phrase “*able to save your souls*” refer back to? vs. 21 **vs. 17-18**

B. Practice the word James 1:22-25

“Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them.”

1. What parable did Jesus use to teach the principle given in verse 22? (Check cross ref.)

Mt. 7:21

- Where else is this same principle taught? Rm. 2:13, I Jn. 3:7



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2. What does “*deceiving*” mean? vs. 22 “**To come alongside yourself**”, argue, to **convince yourself that you are ok.**
 - a. II Cor. 10:12 **comparing**
 - b. I Cor. 3:18-20 **using worldly wisdom**
 - c. Eph. 4:22-24 **put off, put on, put in**
 3. How should we look into the mirror of the Word? vs. 23-25 cp. Acts 17:11 **Define the difference between “behold” & “look”**
 - a. Behold - **Observe**
 - b. Look - = **Careful** examination
 4. When we look into the mirror of the Word, who should we see reflected back? vs. 25
cp. II Cor. 3:18
 5. Compare the use of liberty to II Cor. 3:17 and James 2:12
 - C. Live the Word vs. 26-27
 1. What kind of things do people do to be religious? cp. Matt. 6:1-18 “**being seen of men**”
Giving, praying, fasting, serving
 2. Who is the “*religious*” man deceiving? cp. Luke 18:11 **Himself**
 3. What does “*vain*” mean? “**empty**”
 - a. What causes vanity? I Cor. 3:18-20, I Cor. 8:1, Tit. 3:9 “**I know it already**” “**I don’t need to be taught**”
 - b. What is religion without Christ? **Like dehydrated water or chocolate without sugar**
 4. Where else in James does he talk about the tongue? **James 3:1-12**
 - a. Do you have a cross-ref. for the Psalms? **Psalms 34:13, 39:1**
 - b. Why is the tongue so important? cp. Matt. 12:34-35 **It is a poison, out of control**
 5. Pure religion is practicing Christian **love**. I Cor. 13
 - a. We should not just **say** it or **pray** it, but **do** it! Jas. 2:15-17
 - b. When we visit, we minister to Christ. Matt. 25:34-40
 6. Undefiled religion is practicing good Christian **standards**.
 - a. Clean through the **Word**. John 15:3; Psalms 119:9
 - b. Clean through **confession**. I John 1:9; John 13:10
- * What is the “*world*” and what are the steps that lead us into the “world”? Jn 14:30

- 1) James 4:4 [Friendship with the world](#)
- 2) I John 2:15-17 [Love the world](#)
- 3) Rom. 12:1-2 [Conforming to the world](#)
- 4) Who is an example of this happening to? [Lot](#) [Genesis 13:10-13](#)
- 5) Do we have to isolate ourselves from the world? I Cor. 5:9-11

James 2

I. Introduction Chapter 2

A. What does verse 1 mean? Rewrite it in your own words. *My brethren, don't say you have faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, if you don't have his attitude and actions of love and respect for others.*

1. What was Jesus' attitude towards people? Matt. 22:16
 - a. What is His attitude towards the lost? Rom. 5:8, II Pet. 3:8-9
 - b. What is His attitude towards Christians? I Jn 4:11, 20-21

2. Can we see as He sees? I Sam. 16:7

B. What should be the basis of our judgment? Jn 7:24, Mt. 7:15-20 [What are some wrong ways that we judge people?](#)

C. Why did James add the phrase about Jesus "the Lord of glory"? [glory](#) = doxa – "opinion, splendor, brightness" Heb. 1:3, Ps. 24:7-10

II. Example James 2:2-4

* *What are some other words for "gay"?* vs. 3 [Splendid, bright, fine.](#)

A. Where is the source of the problem described here? Matt. 15:19

1. Evil thoughts refers to who? [You, not them](#)
2. What does it mean? cp. Lk. 5:21-22, Mt. 7:1-2

B. Should Christians be concerned about outward appearances at all? I Pet. 2:12 [Yes, because we know that the unspiritual & unsaved will judge us by outward appearances. We are also called of God to set an example or standard.](#)

III. Explanation James 2:5-7

A. Where has James previously referred to the relationship of the rich and poor Christian? [James 1:9-11](#)

B. Can't a rich man be saved? vs. 5 cp. Mark 10:23-25

1. What makes it hard for a rich man to be saved? Mark 10:24, I Tim. 6:17



2. What should be his attitude towards his riches? I Tim. 6:18
- C. Does being poor make you spiritual? Jas. 2:5, [Proverbs 30:8-9](#)
 1. What makes it easier for a poor man to be saved? Luke 6:20-26
 2. Why does God use the poor, weak and base? I Cor. 1:26-29
 3. What does the poor man need to have to be chosen of God?
 - a. Rich in **faith** Luke 12:21, Matt. 6:20
 - b. **Heirs** John 1:12, Rom. 8:17
 - c. **Love** Him Rom. 8:28, John 14:15
- D. What practical reasons does James give for not showing favoritism to the rich? 2:6-7
 1. vs. 6 **Oppression** Jas. 5:1-6, Acts 16:19, 19:23-29 (27)
 2. vs. 7 **Blasphemy** Phil. 2:9

IV. Scriptural Basis James 2:8-11

- A. Where is it “according to the Scriptures”? vs. 8 [Lev.19:18, Mt. 7:12, Mk. 12:29-31, Rm. 13:8-10, Gal. 5:14](#)
- B. According to Jesus, who is your neighbor? vs. 9 Lk. 10:30-37

“Not who is my neighbor, but who can I be a neighbor to.”
- C. Why is it called the “royal law”? vs. 8
 1. From and taught by **God**. Rom. 5:5, I Thess. 4:9
 2. **Rules** all other laws. Rom. 13:10

** Obeying it makes you a **king**!*
- D. How does having respect of persons cause us to sin? vs. 9 [Compromising doctrine to please or accommodate that person. Participating in or going somewhere shouldn't to please or be seen](#)
- E. Explain vs. 10. [Math formula – Big or even simple mistake changes the answer. Same in our lives.](#)
- F. Does this passage teach that some violations of the law are not as serious as others?
- G. How bad of sinners are we? Rom. 3:23
- H. Can a person be saved by keeping the law? Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 5:1-4, 3:10-11

V. Judgment

- A. Will Christians be judged? Rom. 14:10-12, II Cor. 5:10
 1. Our **words** will be judged. Matt. 12:36 (34-37)

2. Our **works** will be judged. I Cor. 3:11-15, Rom. 2:6

3. Our **thoughts** will be judged. I Cor. 4:5

4. Our **motivation** will be judged. Phil. 1:10, Phil. 2:16

* We will not be judged if we judge **ourselves**. I Cor. 11:31 (I Jn 1:9, Heb. 10:17)

B. What parable teaches this principle vs. 13? Mat. 18:21-35 (Prov. 21:13, Matt. 5:7)

C. The Law of Liberty does not **force** us to do right, but **teaches** us how to do right. vs. 12 cp. 1:25

1. Liberty does not mean **license**. Rom. 6:1-2, Gal. 5:13-15, I Pet. 2:16

2. Our liberty ends where **others** rights begin. I Cor. 8:9

3. Liberty is freedom to do **right**. Psa. 119:45

D. How do we lose our liberty? John 8:34 (31-32)

E. How do we keep our liberty? II Cor. 3:17

VI. Three Types of Faith

A. **Dead** faith. Jas. 2:14-18

* *This section continues the consideration of true faith begun in 2:1.*

1. Does James contradict Paul in Rom. 4:1-8, 16-25 and Eph. 2:8-10?

2. How else could you say verse 14? **What good is it to say you have faith, if you have no good works to show your faith? Can a faith that does not work save you.**

3. What kind of works will show a man's faith? cp. 2:8

a. Keep His **commandments**. I Jn 2:4, Jn 14:15

b. **Love** the brethren I Jn 2:9, Jn 15:17

* *Is everyone that says they have faith in Christ saved? Matt. 7:21-23*

4. Who are we responsible to help? cp. 15-16 to Gal. 6:10, Matt. 25:34-40

a. Give some cross-references for Jas. 2:15-16 **I Jn. 3:17-18, Ps. 41:1, Prov. 3:27-28, Dt. 15:7-8**

b. What does the phrase "*Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled*" mean? **Biggest lie! – "I'm praying for you!"**

5. What is James teaching in vs. 18?

*"Faith that **produces** no works is **dead** and **dead** faith cannot **produce** good works."*

*"It is faith **alone** that **justifies**, but faith that **justifies** is never **alone**."*

***Living** faith changes how we **live**"*

B. **Demonic** faith 2:19



1. Where does James quote from in the beginning of verse 19? [Dt. 6:4](#), [Mk. 12:29](#)
2. Give some NT examples of demons who believed in God. [Mk. 5:7](#), [Mk 3:11-12](#), [Lk. 4:41](#), [Acts 19:15](#)
3. Why do the demons tremble? [Matt. 8:29](#), [Lk 8:31](#)

C. **Dynamic** faith

1. What does the word vain mean? [Jas. 2:20](#), 26 [Empty](#)
2. Illustration #1 - Abraham
 - a. What times of Abraham's life do Paul and James use to illustrate their points?
 - 1) Paul ([Rom. 4:1-3](#), [17-22](#)) [Genesis 15](#) (vs. 5-6)
 - 2) James ([Jas. 2:21-24](#)) [Genesis 22](#) (vs. 9)
 - b. Paul shows that Abraham was justified by faith before **God** and James shows he was justified by works before **men**. cp. [2:18](#), 24
** Abraham was not saved by faith plus works, but by faith that works.*
 - c. "Faith made perfect" means his faith was made **complete** or **mature** by works. [Tit. 1:16](#), [3:8](#)
 - d. How was the Scripture ([Genesis 15:6](#)) fulfilled? [Abraham proved the reality of his faith.](#)
** The Christian is saved by faith alone, but not a faith that is alone.*
 - e. Where else in Scripture is Abraham called the "friend of God"? cp. [Jn 15:14](#)
[II Chronicles 20:7](#), [Isaiah 41:8](#)
3. Illustration #2 – Rahab
 - a. Where in the OT do we learn about Rahab? [Joshua 2:1-21](#) & [6:22-25](#)
 - b. Why is Rahab special? cp. [Heb. 11:31](#), [Matt. 1:5](#)
 - c. Why does James use Rahab as an illustration? [Opposite of Abraham – woman, Gentile, Pagan, Immoral](#)
4. The challenge of this passage should be for each of us to do what? [II Co. 13:5](#), [Ph. 2:12-1](#)

JAMES 3

I. The Tongue: *Power to Direct* [James 3:1-4](#) [James 1:26](#)

- A. What does “*masters*” mean? vs. 1 I Tim. 4:11-12 [Teachers](#)
1. Why will they receive greater condemnation? Heb. 13:17
 2. Teachers are masters in the sense of authority and prestige of the office, but should also be servants. Matt. 20:25-28
- B. Is verse 1 referring only to those who are in a position of a teacher? Col. 4:6, I Pet. 3:15
- C. What does James mean by the phrase “*in many things we offend all*”? vs. 2 [We all stumble and make mistakes](#).
1. How many words does it take to offend?
 2. What else do we say offends? I Pet. 2:8 (ICo. 1:18, 23)
 - 1) Be careful not to be an offense. II Cor. 6:3, I Cor. 10:32
 - 2) It is not just what we say that gives offense. I Pt. 2:12, 3:15-16
- D. What kind of person comes closest to being a perfect (mature) man? vs. 2 cp. 1:4
(Psa. 34:11-13)
- E. Who is the supreme example of one who “*bridled the whole body*” I Pet. 2:21-23 (Mt. 11:29)
- F. The bit illustrates the need for us to overcome our nature. vs. 3
1. To bridle our tongue we must first take care of the heart. Matt. 12:34-35
(Psa. 19:14)
 2. Are there times when our “*nature*” is more difficult to bridle? Psa. 39:1
- G. The helm (or rudder) illustrates our need to overcome the outward circumstances. vs. 4
1. Many times our words must be contrary to the “*winds*”. I Pet. 3:9-10
 2. What does it take to “*turn*” a situation around? Prov. 15:1 (10:19)
- H. Who must be in control (*governor*) of the reins and the rudder? [Holy Spirit](#)
- II. The Tongue: Power to Destroy James 3:5-8; Prov. 13:3, 18:21, 21:23
- * “Boasts great things” - *talk about all the good you will do, but many times end up doing Nothing or worse – doing damage*. Prov. 30:32
- A. What kind of fires can the tongue start? vs. 5
- “*A fire under control is a good thing*”
1. Strife Prov. 26:20-22, Jas. 3:14-16, Phil. 2:3 Angry and sin not Eph. 4:26, Phil. 4:2
“[Electioneering](#)”
 2. Gossip Prov. 16:27 [talk about good, tell leaders about problems](#)
You can talk about me as much as you please, I’ll talk about you when I’m on my knees.
- * SOLUTION - take away the fuel. Prov. 26:20-21 [Kindling](#)



B. How does the tongue “defile the whole body”? vs. 6

“With any fire you also have smoke and water damage, sometimes worse than the actual fire”

C. What kind of iniquities “defile” the Christian? Matt. 12:34-35, 15:11

1. Eph. 4:29 corrupt (**rotten**) communication

2. Eph. 5:4 filthiness = **obscene** or indecent

foolish talking = **empty** words Ex. 20:7 Weigh your words carefully.

jesting = to **turn** Prov. 26:18-19 Bathroom humor, 2-sided remarks

3. Col. 3:8-9 **lying** (Prov. 12:22, 17:7)

D. What does it mean “setteth on fire the course of nature”? vs. 6 **course** = wheel or cycle.

“World of iniquity” = “world of trouble.

E. How is it “set on fire of hell”? Jn 8:44 **Hell** = This was a well-known known place just outside of Jerusalem. Hinnom Valley had been used in the past for human sacrifice. At the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, it was a perpetually-blazing trash heap. Because it was associated with garbage, rejection, evil, destruction, and fire, this Valley of Hinnom was often held up as a picture of God's eternal judgment on sin: hell.

F. What three things does James warn us about the tongue in vs. 8?

1. Cannot **tame** cp. Mark 5:4 (Psa. 141:3-4)

2. Unruly **evil** Rom. 12:9

3. Full of **deadly** poison Psa. 140:3

III. Power to Delight James 3:9-12

A. We should use our tongues to:

1. Bless **God** Psa. 19:14; Heb. 13:15

2. Answer **men** Col. 4:6; I Pet. 3:15

B. How do we violate verse 10?

C. How can we be sure that the fountain flowing from us is pure and sweet? John 4:14

cp. Prov. 10:11; 13:14; 18:4

D. How can we be sure to bear the right fruit? Jn 15:1-5 cp. Psa. 1:1-3

WISDOM James 3:13-18

I. True Wisdom Jas. 3:13

A. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? vs. 13 cp. Prov. 1:7

1. Which is more important? Prov. 4:7

2. Does that mean it is not important to learn? Prov. 4:4-5

B. What does conversation mean? cp. I Pet. 2:12, I Tim. 4:12-13

1. What kind of conversation (**lifestyle**) should we have? Ph.1:27, Heb. 3:7, I Pt. 1:18

a. I Pet. 3:1 & 2 **Chaste**

b. I Pet. 3:16 **Good**

c. II Pet. 3:11 **Holy**

d. Heb. 13:5 Without **covetousness**

*Are you **vexed**? II Pt. 2:7

2. How do you change your conversation? Eph. 2:3, 4:21-24

D. How will people know you are wise? I Pet. 2:12

1. Show your **faith** by your works. Jas. 2:18

2. Show your **wisdom** by your works. Jas. 3:13

E. What does it mean to have “meekness of wisdom”? Matt. 11:29, II Cor. 10:1

1. Meekness is **power** under control

2. How can we have meekness? Matt. 20:25-28; Phil. 2:1-5

II. Worldly Wisdom James 3:14-16

A. What are the three sources of wisdom from below? vs. 15

1. Earthly (**worldly**) I Cor. 1:20-21

* Is it wrong to learn the world’s knowledge? Rom. 16:19

2. Sensual (**fleshly**) Rom. 13:14, I Cor. 2:14

3. **Satan** II Cor. 11:14, I John 4:1

B. What are the results of worldly wisdom? vs. 14, 16

1. **Bitterness** Acts 8:23, Eph. 4:31, Heb. 12:15

2. **Envy** Rom. 10:2, cp. Tit. 2:14

3. **Strife** Phil. 2:3 (1-5)

4. Glory not (**boast**) II Cor. 10:12

5. **Lie** not I John 1:8

6. **Confusion** cp. James 1:8 and 3:8, I Cor. 14:33

7. **Evil** works Eph. 2:10, Tit. 3:8

III. Heavenly Wisdom James 3:17-18

A. How do we find the wisdom from above? Prov. 9:10

1. **Ask** James 1:5, 17

2. **Do** Deut. 4:5-6



- B. Is this wisdom a one time gift? cp. James 1:5, 17; 3:15, 17
- C. What are the evidences of true spiritual wisdom?
1. Pure = **chaste, clean** II Cor. 11:2-3, I Jn 3:3
 2. **Peaceable** - cp. Jas. 4:1-2, Jn 14:27
 3. **Gentle** - Titus 3:2 *Appropriate, mild, moderation*
 4. Easy to be intreated = **reasonable**, open to **reason**. Jas. 1:19
 5. Mercy - **undeserved favor** Luke 6:36
 6. **Good fruits** - Gal. 5:22-25 (also Jn 15:1-16)
 7. Without partiality = **unwavering** cp. Jas. 1:6, 2:4
 8. Without hypocrisy = **action** Rom. 12:9, I Pet. 1:22
- D. What are the results of wisdom from above? vs. 18 cp. Is. 32:17
1. **Righteousness** Prov. 11:18
 2. **Peace** Rom. 14:19
- * Sometimes wisdom is learned the hard way. Heb 12:11
- * Peace must never be sought at the **expense** of righteousness. Gal. 6:7-8

WORLDLINESS

- I. It's Cause James 4:1-3
- A. Give some Biblical examples of fighting and quarreling among believers.
- Lot & Abraham Genesis 13, Disciples Luke 9:46-48, Paul & Barnabas Acts 15:36-40, Two women Philippians 4:1-3, Corinthian church*
- * Should this be the norm among Christians and does it have to be? Psa. 133:1, Jn 13:34-35
- B. What kind of wars and fighting's were these Christians having?
1. James 2:1-9, 5:1-6 *Class divisions*
 2. James 3:1, 13-18 *Power struggles*
 3. James 4:11-12 *Personality conflicts*
- * What other kind of "wars and fighting's" can happen in the church?
- C. What is the root cause of war and fighting? 4:1; cp. 3:14-16, Titus 3:3
- * What does he mean "your lusts that war in your members" vs. 1 Gal. 5:17
- D. Worldly wisdom leads to **lust** vs. 2. I Pet. 2:11, I Jn 2:16

E. How do we “kill”? vs. 2, Matt. 5:21-22, I Jn. 3:15 (Gal. 5:19-21)

F. What do we need to ask for in order to have victory? vs. 2 [James 1:5 \(3-13-18\)](#)

G. We ask amiss because of a lack of **knowledge** and/or **wisdom**. I Jn 5:14

II. It's Consequences James 4:4-6

A. By using the terms “*adulterers and adulteresses*”, is James referring to just sexual sins?

Deut. 31:16, Matt. 12:39 (II Cor. 11:2)

B. How does one become a spiritual adulterer? II Tim. 4:10

1. **Knowledge** Jer. 10:1-2, (Rom. 16:19)

2. **Affection** Col. 3:2 (cp. Phil. 2:5)

3. **Vicarious** Rom. 1:29-32

4. **Friendship** James 4:4

5. **Love** I Jn 2:15

6. **Conformed** Rom. 12:2

7. **Condemned** I Cor. 11:32

C. Who are the Old Testament examples of one man who chose friendship with God and one who chose friendship with the world? [Abraham & Lot James 2:23](#)

D. What is the result of friendship with the world? vs. 4, Jn 2:15, Lk 16:13, I Tim. 3:4,

Rom. 8:5-8

E. What does James mean, “*Do ye think the scriptures saith in vain*” vs. 5.

F. Rephrase the second part of vs. 5. [The Spirit of God that dwells in us is jealous over us.](#)

[Exodus 39:14](#)

1. Who is that Spirit? Eph. 1:13-14

2. Do all Christians have the Holy Spirit? Rom. 8:9

3. What makes the Holy Spirit jealous? Eph. 4:30, I Thess. 5:19

G. What does God give us “*more grace*” for? vs. 6

1. II Cor. 12:9

2. Heb. 4:16

3. Rom. 5:20

H. Where is the second half of verse 6 quoted from? Proverbs 3:34

* *Give a NT parallel verse. I Peter 5:5*

I. What should we do in light of verse 6? Jas. 4:7, 10; I Pet. 5:6

III. It's Cure James 4:7-10



-
- A. How many imperatives are we given in these four verses? [Submit, resist, draw nigh, cleanse, purify, be afflicted, mourn, weep, turn, humble](#)
- B. What does it mean to submit? vs. 7
1. Military term “*get into proper rank.*”
 2. To submit to God you must also submit to . . . ?
 - a. **Government** Rom. 13:1, 5 I Pet. 2:13
 - b. **Spouse** I Pet. 3:1, Eph. 5:21-22
 - c. **Elders** I Pet. 5:5
 - d. **Boss** Titus 2:9
 - e. **Spiritual Leaders** Heb. 13:17
- C. How can we resist the Devil? vs. 7
1. What does the word *devil* mean here? [Slanderer](#)
 2. What is Satan referred to as in I Pet. 5:8-9 [Roaring Lion](#)
- D. What is the only weapon we have against the Devil? Eph. 6:17, Matthew 4:1-11
- * The devil flees because we are close to God.
- E. How do we draw near to God? vs. 7 [Nearness is not always based upon distance. My dog can be on my lap and my wife in the kitchen, but I am closer to my wife than my dog.](#)
1. **Cleanse** I Jn 1:6-7, 9-10 [Outside](#)
 2. **Purify** I John 3:3, I Pet. 1:22 [Inside](#)
- * What does it mean to be double-minded? cp. 1:8 [James 4:4, Matthew 6:24](#)
- F. Is James saying we should not enjoy life, but go around with sour faces and suffering? vs. 9
- cp. Ps. 51:17, Is. 66:2, Ps. 34:18, 126:2
1. **Afflicted** Rom. 7:24 (Job 23:10, I Peter 1:7) [A test in the balance](#)
 2. **Mourn & Weep** Matt. 5:4, 26:75, II Co. 7:7-11
 3. **Laughter** Psalm 126:2, Ecclesiastes 3:4, Phil. 4:4
 4. **Heaviness** Ps. 51:12, Heb. 11:25
- G. How does the command to “*humble yourselves*” relate to the command to submit in verse 7?
- H. What are some ways we can humble ourselves? I Pt. 5:5-6, Mt. 18:4 [Elder I Pt 5:5, I Ti 4:12-16, submitting to one another I Pt. 5:5, submission to authority Heb. 13:17, Confession to God](#)

Lk. 18:9-14, Confession to others Jam. 5:16, I Pt. 2:8, Position Pr. 25:6-7, Lk. 14:7-11, Association Rom. 12:16, Phil. 2:1-5, Apologize Mt. 5:23-24, Mk. 11:25-26, Forgive Mt. 18:21-22, Eph. 5:21, Ask for help or counsel Pr. 1:29-30, Accountability Heb. 10:23-25, Serve Mt. 23:11, Jn. 13:3-20, Kneel Ps. 95:6-7, Patience Rom. 2:7-8

I. It takes **grace** to humble yourself. Prov. 3:34

J. What happens when we *lift* ourselves up? cp. I Tim. 3:6; Lk 14:11 (Pr. 16:18)

IV. It's Characteristics James 4:11-17

* *These characteristics are a result of a lack of **humility**.* 4:10

A. Judging God's Will 4:11-12

1. A proper relationship with **God** (v 7-10) results in a proper relationship with **others** (11-12) I Jn. 4:7-8
2. Evil speaking is a result of a failure to **forgive**. Eph. 4:31-32
 - a. What will help us have victory in this area? I Pet. 2:1-3
 - b. What should we replace it with? I Pet. 3:8-11
3. None of us can judge another because. . .
 - a. We are under **condemnation** of the law. Rom. 2:1
 - b. We have enough trouble **doing** the law. Matt. 7:1-5
 - c. There is already a perfect **judge**. Rom. 14:4
4. What does it mean "*if thou judge the law, thou are not a doer of the law*"? cp Jn. 7:24
 - a. What law is referred to here? Jas. 2:8, Gal. 5:14, Mk. 12:30-31
 - b. We cannot judge because we cannot **condemn**. Matt. 10:28

B. Presuming God's Will James 4:13-15

1. Do these verses teach it is wrong to make plans or to invest for the future? cp Lk 12:16-21
2. The three imperatives (*commands*) of this passage are:
 - a. Prov. 27:1 **Boast not**
 - b. Matt. 6:33 **Seek first**
 - c. I Jn. 5:14-15 **Ask**

3. What is a "*vapor*"? vs. 14, cp Job 7:9, 8:9, 14:1-2

C. Not doing God's Will James 4:16-17

1. How were they boasting? vs. 16 cp I Cor. 13:4
2. Sins of **omission** are as bad as sins of **commission**. v 17
3. Where in the gospels did Christ teach this principle? vs. 17 **Luke 12:47-48**



4. How can we know God's will for our lives? Jn. 7:17
 - a. **Knowing** God's will is not enough. Col. 1:9, Eph. 5:17
 - b. We must **prove** God's will. Rom. 12:2 *Easier to turn a moving car*
 - c. We must **delight** to do His will. Psa. 40:8
- I. Rich Warned James 5:1-6
 - A. Is it a sin to be rich? I Tim. 6:10
 1. Having more money than we need leads to what? I Tim. 6:6-10
 2. Having riches tends to keep us from **trusting** in God. I Tim. 6:17
 3. What should we use riches for? I Tim. 6:18
 - B. Why should the rich man "weep and howl"? vs. 1 cp James 4:9
 1. Luke 6:23-24 *Because "riches" are all he has*
 2. Luke 12:16-21 *All he worked for will belong to another*
 3. Luke 16:19,22-23 *No good in Hell*
 - C. What are two extremes we want to avoid? Prov. 30:7-9
 - D. Riches is not just money but **things**. vs. 2-3 Luke 12:15-21
 - * *Because of this teaching what we should do? Mt. 6:19-21*
 - E. What does it mean "shall eat your flesh"? vs. 3 *Errode your character*
 - F. What does James mean "heaped treasure together"? vs. 3, Rom. 2:5
 1. It is not wrong to **save** or **invest** for the future. Mt. 25:27
 2. It is wrong to presume upon the future. Jam. 4:13-17
 - G. Where should we lay up our treasure? Mt. 6:19-21
 - H. How do Christians violate the principles of vs. 4?
 1. Not taking care of those in **ministry**. I Tim. 5:18, Matt. 10:9-13
 2. Not paying our **bills**. Rom. 13:8
 - I. What are the three charges given against the rich? vs. 4-6
 1. Not being fair in paying debts. 5:4, Jer. 22:13, Mal. 3:5
 - * *What does "Lord of Sabaoth" mean? Lord of Hosts or armies – denotes judgement*
 - a. Pay on **time**. Lev. 19:13, Dt. 24:14-15
 - b. Do **right**. Mt. 20:4

2. Living in selfish **extravagance** 5:5, Lk. 12:15

* *Tell me what thou dost need and I will tell thee how to get along without it.*”

a. Pleasure (Lk. 16:19) = **Soft, luxurious**

b. Wanton (Lk. 15:13) = **self-gratification, wastefulness**

c. Nourisheth your hearts (Pr. 7:22) = **fattened for slaughter**

3. To condemn and kill the just. 5:6, cp 2:6

a. How do we do this? Gal. 5:14-15

b. What does it mean for the righteous to not resist? Mt. 5:39, Rom. 12:19, I Pt. 3:15-17

II. Patience Encouraged James 5:7-11

A. What does it mean to have patience?

1. Makrothumea = To **suffer long** vs. 7,8 & 10, I Co. 13:4

2. Hupomone = **Abiding under** vs. 11 cp. II Tim. 2:3, Jas. 1:3-4

* How does the one lead to the other?

B. We can be patient because...

1. Jesus is **coming** again. Tit. 2:13, (7-8)

2. God is **patient** with us. II Pet. 3:9, (9-10)

C. Who does James introduce as an example of patience? vs. 7

1. Does the farmer just wait? II Thes. 3:10,12; Lk. 12:43

2. What can't the farmer do? Mark 4:26-29, I Cor. 3:7

3. Why is the farmer willing to wait? Gal. 5:22-23

D. We should also be patient for what? vs. 8-9, Gal. 6:7-10

E. God will “*stablsh*” our hearts as we...

1. **Love** others. I Thes. 3:12-13

2. **Resist** the devil. I Pet. 5:9-10

3. Receive the **preaching** and **teaching** of God's Word. Rom. 1:11, I Th. 3:1-3

* What will help us “*stablsh*” our hearts? vs. 8 II Pet. 3:11, I Jn. 3:3

F. Where in the Scriptures do we read about these prophets who are to be our examples? vs. 10

Heb. 11:1-12:1

1. Were they perfect? Jas. 5:17

2. Can we still learn from them? I Cor. 10:11

* Who brought the most suffering on the prophets? **Professed believers**

G. What does this teach us about the importance of the Old Testament? Rm. 15:4, I Co. 10:1-13

H. Suffering does not always produce **patience**. I Pet. 2:19-20

I. Who will suffer affliction: II Tim. 3:12

*The **will** of God will never lead you where the **grace** of God cannot keep you. II Cor. 12:7-9*

J. Why should we be happy to endure suffering? vs. 11 Matt. 5:10-12, Rev. 22:12, (Jas. 1:12)

K. Why does James switch from “*Longsuffering*” patience to an “*abiding under*” patience when talking about Job? Job was not always patient with his comforters (Job 3:3, 16:2-4) or with God (Job 10:18, 23:2), but he was steadfast to remain true to God (Job 1:21-22, 2:10, 13:15).

L. What was the “*end of the Lord*” for Job? vs. 11

1. Job 42:5-6 To mature Job & bring him to a renewed vision of God’s infinite goodness & majesty.

2. Job 42:12-17 Blessings of peace & plenty that came to Job after his sufferings.

* How does verse 12 fit into the context of the references to Job? Job 1:21-22, 2:9-10, 3:1

JAMES AND PSALM 19:14

I. Words of my Mouth Jas. 5:12, Mt. 5:33-37

A. What does it mean to “*swear*”? vs. 12

B. Does this verse forbid curse words? Why or why not? Ephesians 5:3-4, Col. 4:6 **Filthiness** = obscene or indecent (sexual, vulgar, bathroom humor), **Foolish talking** = empty words, **Jesting** = “to turn” (2-sided remarks, double innuendo or entendre)

1. Why do people swear? Habit, Lack of vocabulary, letting off steam, trying to impress people (mature), shock or embarrass. Pr. 6:2, 10:19. Eph. 4:26, Eccl. 5:6-7, I Pt. 3:15-16, Jam. 3:2-4, I Tim. 4:12

2. What does the Bible specifically condemn? Ex. 20:7, Lev. 22:32, Jam. 3:9-12, Mt. 5:34-37

3. What about “minced oaths”? Mt. 12:36-37 “A word that has been changed and is used as a replacement for a swear word.”

C. What does he mean “*lest ye fall into condemnation*”? cp vs. 9 to Matt. 12:36

II. Meditation of my Heart. vs. 13-16 I Pet. 3:12

A. When should we pray?

1. **Afflicted** = **suffering** Same as verse 10

* What should you pray for? Jam. 1:3-5, 4:6 cp. II Co. 12:7-10

2. Merry Jam. 1:2, 4:9 cp. Acts 26:2, 27:22,25 (Acts 16:25)

B. Is it always necessary to have the elders pray for in order to be healed? v. 14

1. Who are the *elders*? Acts 20:17, Titus 1:5, 1 Pt. 5:1

2. Should the focus of your faith be on men? Acts 3:12, 16, & 14:8-15

3. Why were they to *anoint with oil*? v. 14, Mark 6:13

- a. **Medical** purposes Is. 1:6, Lk. 10:34

- b. **Sacred** purposes Ps. 133:2, 23:5

- c. Possibly a **symbolic** aid ex: Mk. 7:33, 8:23

* Is it ok for a Christian to take or use medicines? 1 Tim. 5:23, Jer. 8:22, 46:11,
Rev. 3:18, Col. 4:14

* Does God always heal the sick? 2 Cor. 12:7-10, 2 Tim. 4:20 Jesus did not heal
everyone Jn. 5:2-9 (pool of Bethesda)

D. The word “*sick*” in v. 15 means **weary** and is in reference to both v. 13 & 14.

cp Heb. 12:3

1. Save means to make **whole**. Mk 10:52, Acts 4:9-10

2. Is the emphasis of faith on healing the body? v. 15, Mk. 2:5-12

- a. Is all sickness a result of sin? Jn. 9:1-3, (Jn. 5:14, 1 Cor. 11:30)

- b. Whose faith will make whole? Gal. 6:1-2, Mk. 2:3-4

- c. Healing of the soul is more important than healing of the body. Ps. 32:1-5

III. Acceptable in Thy Sight 16-20

A. Acceptable **person**

1. Who is a righteous man? 2 Pt. 2:7 (2 Cor. 5:21), 1 Jn. 3:7

2. God uses **real** people. Heb. 11, 4:15

B. Acceptable **prayer**

1. We need to confess our sins to **God** (I Jn. 1:8-10) and **faults** to man. Pr. 28:13

- a. For **restoration** Mt. 5:23--24, Mk. 11:25-26

- b. For **help** Gal. 6:1-2

- c. For **accountability** Heb. 10:24-25

- d. For **knowledge** 1 Pt. 5:9



2. How should we pray?
 - a. **Effectual** prayer Eph. 6:19-21
 - b. **Fervant** prayer Ps. 126:5-6
 - c. Prayed **earnestly** 1 Thess. 5:17, 1 Tim. 2:8
- C. Acceptable **purpose** 5:19-20
 1. Why am I my “brother’s keeper”?
 - a. Because he is **valuable**. Mt. 18:15-16
 - b. Because it could be **me**. Gal. 6:1-2
 - c. Because I am **responsible**. Rm. 15:1-2
 - d. Because when one **suffers** all **suffer**. 1 Cor. 12:26
 2. When should we go to our brother? 1 Jn. 5:16-17
 3. What does it mean to “*save soul from death*”? 1 Cor. 5:1,5; 11:30
- D. What is our responsibility to one who errs? Matt. 18:12-14
 1. **Pray** for him. 1 Jn. 5:16
 2. **Go** to him. Mt. 18:15-17
 3. **Help** him. Gal. 6:1-2, Rm. 15:1-2
 4. **Feel** with him. Rm. 12:15-16, Lk. 22:32
 5. **Receive** him. Rom. 14:1, 2 Cor. 2:5-8,11
 6. **Cover** his sin. 1 Pt. 4:8, Pr. 10:12, (Eph. 4:15)

* What happens if he refuses to get right. 1 Cor. 5:3-5,7,11, Mt. 18:17