

JAMES

An Introduction

1. Purpose of the study of James

- a. To become familiar with a non-Pauline epistle – 2 Tim 3:16; Rom 15:4
- b. To learn the doctrine of the “doer” → the twelve tribes, and your neighbor
- c. To handle trouble passages that cause people to err – 2 Peter 3:16

2. What to expect

- a. Dispensational Context – James and the twelve tribes scattered and waiting
 - i. Who wrote it? – 2 “James” – Mat 10:2, Acts 1:13, a third? Ga 1:19, Mk 13:55
 - ii. To whom? – 1:1-2, 2:1, 3:1 – remnant Israel, “rich men” – 5:1
 - iii. The remnant is of Israel – Isa 1:9, 10:20-21, 11:11, they’re sheep – Luk 12:32
 - iv. Acts 8:1 – explains when they were scattered
 - v. This is the church at Jerusalem – Acts 2:14, 44-46, 3:24-26
 - vi. “The coming of the Lord draws nigh” – Jam 5:8, 1 Pet 4:7
 - vii. The parable of the sower addresses the context of James – Matthew 13:22
- b. Subject: Doing the works that new testament faith requires
- c. Purpose: Lk 21:19, Heb 13:21, Ja 1:4, 5:7 – Letting patience have her perfect work
 - i. This is different than Col 1:28 – They were waiting for it – 1 Pet 5:10
- d. Themes:
 - i. Doers of the word, not just hearers – 1:22, 1:26, 2:13, 3:13
 - ii. The Rich and the poor – 1:10-11, 2:2-6, 4:3, 5:1-6
 - iii. Enduring temptations and afflictions – 1:2, 5:10

3. Popular Passages

- a. 1:2 – “Count it all joy” – Used to turn the frown upside down
- b. 1:5 – “if any lack wisdom” – wrongly applied to personal decisions
- c. 1:22 – Doers not hearers only – wrongly used to combat grace
- d. 2:10 – Wrongly interpreted to mean that no one can do the whole law
- e. 2:17-18, 26 – Faith without works is dead – used to judge people
- f. 4:3 – “ye ask amiss” – Used to explain why prayers don’t get answered
- g. 4:8 – Used to explain why God is not involved in your life
- h. 5:14 – Used to give sick people one more thing to do before they receive a healing

4. Brief Outline

- a. Hear and do – 1:1-27 – Pure religion
- b. See and do – 2:1-9 – The sin of partiality
- c. Faith and do – 2:10-26 – Faith requires doing the law
- d. Say and do – 3:1-18 – Wisdom is good works, not good words only
- e. Go and do – 4:1-5:6 – Doing the Lord’s will (according to prophecy)
- f. Continue to do and receive – 5:7-20