

IN OUR STUDY OF JAMES, ~ WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING ~ ¶¶

AT HIS WARNING AGAINST FAVORITISM, ~ 2:1-13.

▶▶ Recall, ~ that after ~ his command prohibiting favoritism ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and his concrete example of it, ~ James presents ~ three arguments ~ against favoritism.

▷▷ 1st, ~ God's View of the Poor (2:5-6a).

▷▷ 2nd, ~ Incongruity of Favoring the Rich (2:6b-7).

▷▷ And 3rd, ~ favoritism violates God's royal law. (2:8-13).

▶▶ And today, ~ turn our attention to the third argument against favoritism.

▷▷ In 2:8-13, ~ Favoritism ~ violates God's royal law.

↳↳ Specifically, ~ the command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

▷▷ Briefly: ~ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ Favoritism is sin.

→→ Elaborates ~ ~ goes into detail ~ ~ but this bottom line. ¶¶ 1/15

VSS 8-13 HARD TO UNDERSTAND. ⇔⇔ So we need to go through this carefully.

▶▶Our approach.

▷▷1st, ~ foundation.

▷▷2nd, ~ just mentioned and we'll then repeat it.

▷▷3rd, ~ overview of the flow of passage.

▷▷4th, ~ unpack.

▶▶Originally

▷▷Just 1st three points.

▷▷All but a very few minutes at the end on solid foundation.

2 INITIAL POINTS, ~ AS WE BEGIN TO LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION.

First one very brief, ~~ more time on 2nd.

FIRST, ~ PRIMARILY WRITING TO GENUINE BELIEVERS.

▶▶Over & over, ~ "brothers and sisters."

▷▷3x ~ Beloved ~ brothers and sisters.

▶▶But unbelievers among them. ⇓⇓ 2/12

SECOND INITIAL POINT.

▶▶ Mosaic/OT law.

▷▷ Given by God @ Sinai.

▶▶ There are ~ three ~ main divisions ~ within the Old Testament law.

▷▷ Following is a categorization.

▷▷ Please note ~ that occasionally ~ the civil and moral laws overlap.

▶▶ 1st, ~ Civil Law.

▷▷ These laws were specifically given ~ for the culture and place ~ of the Israelites.

↪↪ E.g., ~ restitution for a man gored by an ox.

▷▷ Expired ~ with the demise of the Jewish civil government.

↪↪ Not binding on believers.

▶▶ 2nd, ~ ceremonial law.

▷▷ This covered ~ the Law of Atonement, ~ offerings, ~ various sacrificial offerings for sin, ~ etc..

▷▷ Expired ~ with the fulfillment of priestly work of Christ. **↵↵ 3/12**

▷▷ Christians are freed from this law through Jesus.

▶▶ So the civil and ceremonial parts of the Mosaic law ~ ¶¶

▷▷ are not binding on Christians.

▶▶ However, ~ they do fall ~ under what Paul asserts in 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

▷▷¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ~ ¶¶

↳↳¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

▶▶ And ~ they fall under what Paul writes in Rom. 15:4.

▷▷ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

▶▶ E.g., ~ the ceremonial law ~ is of great value ~ in shedding light ~ on the full biblical significance ~ ¶¶

▷▷ of the NT realities it prefigures.

▶▶ 3rd division of Mosaic Law, ~ God's moral law.

▷▷ No expiration on this.

↳↳ Binding on Christians. ¶¶ 4/12

▷▷ Because ~ this law ~ is based ~ on the character of God. ⇔⇔ 1 Pet. 1:14-16.

↳↳¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ~ ~¹⁶ since it is written [from Lev. 11:44], ~ "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

▷▷ God's moral law ~ extends ~ from the Old ~ into the New ~ Testament.

↳↳ Therefore, ~ as it was wrong to lie in the Old Testament, ~ ↴↴

→→ it is still wrong to lie in the New Testament.

↳↳ Furthermore, ~ 9 of the 10 commandments ~ are clearly repeated in the NT.

→→ All except the command to observe the Sabbath day.

↳↳ Sun. commemorate Res. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). ⇔⇔ Nowhere wrong.

▷▷ Now, ~ keeping God's moral law ~ does not compromise the message of grace.

↳↳ For keeping the moral law, ~ does not earn salvation ~ ↴↴

→→ but instead ~ forms the acceptable response of the believer ~ to God's grace.

▷▷ TPID, ~ believers keep God's moral law ~ not ~ as a means to be right with God, ~ ↴↴

↳↳ but ~ as a natural outflow ~ of genuine salvation.

▷▷ 1 Jn. 2:3-6 ↴↴ 5/12

▷▷ If you love me, you will keep my commands.

↳↳ The impact of this verse ~ means ~ that obedience is a test or indication ~ of loving Jesus.

▷▷ God's moral law ~~ is partly ~ what James has in mind when he talks about the law.

→→ Not civil & ceremonial.

↳↳ IOW, ~ not Mosaic/OT law ~ in and of itself.

THOSE WERE OUR INITIAL POINTS.

NOW LET'S TURN TO JAMES ~ AND EXPLORE ~ WHAT HE MEANS BY LAW.

YOU'LL NOTICE THAT IN EVERY VERSE ~ FROM VERSE 8 TO VERSE 12 ~ ¶¶

▶▶ there is a reference ~ to God's law.

▷▷ And it is always ~ in a most positive and respectful way.

▶▶ This is the NT, ~ and James is writing ~ to people who are believers in Jesus, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but he still refers ~ to the law.

▶▶ The Son of God has brought in a new covenant ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but James ~ still refers ~ to the law. ¶¶ 6/12

JAMES HAD MET PAUL.

▶▶ In fact James, ~ alongside Peter and John ~ had given to Paul and Barnabas ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the right hand of fellowship ~ when they recognized the grace given to them (Gal. 2:9-10).

▶▶ IOW, ~ there was no difference at all ~ between James' message and Paul's.

▷▷ When Paul said, ~ "you are not under law, ~ but under grace," ~ ¶¶

↪↪ James would echo a hearty ~ 'Amen.'

▶▶ He would say, ~ "My covering is not the Mosaic law. ~¶¶

▷▷ I am under the blood of Christ ~ as my protection and salvation."

▶▶ That is what 'under grace' means.

▷▷ For forgiveness and deliverance from condemnation ~ ¶¶

↪↪ genuine believers ~ are under the protection of the grace of Christ, ~ not ~ ¶¶

→→ under the OT law ~ with its sacrifices, ~ etc..

NEXT, ~ LET'S CONSIDER THIS ~ IN DETERMINING WHAT JAMES MEANS BY LAW.

▶▶ The way James qualifies the law he's talking about ~ is significant. ¶¶ 7/12

▷▷ In 2:8, ~ the royal law.

▷▷ In 2:12 ~ the law of liberty.

▷▷ And back in 1:25 ~ the perfect law, ~ the law of liberty.

▶▶ When it comes to the Mosaic law ~ in and of itself, ~ we don't read these kinds of descriptions.

▷▷ Rather, ~ we read such things like the following.

↳↳ The curse of the law (Gal.).

↳↳ If a law had been given that could give life, ~ then righteousness would indeed be by the law (Gal.).

↳↳ We were held captive under the law (Gal.).

↳↳ Rom., ~ For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

▶▶ It doesn't sound like James is describing the OT law in and of itself, ~ does it?

FURTHERMORE, ~ THIS LAW TO WHICH JAMES IS REFERRING ~ ¶¶

▶▶ is not ~ a law which we try to keep ~ in order to be accepted by God.

▶▶ Rather, ~ this law ~ tells everyone ~ who is sheltered by the blood of Jesus ~ ¶¶

▷▷ how ~ to live for and serve him. ¶¶ 8/12

↪↪ Also, ~ a natural outflow of gen. salvation.

▶▶ That is why James calls it ~ the royal law.

▷▷ It belongs to ~ and is decreed by ~ the King of kings and Lord of lords.

▶▶ It is given ~ to those who ~ by the new birth, ~ have entered the kingdom of heaven.

▶▶ It is a law fit ~ for those ~ who have been made ~ ¶¶

▷▷ a kingdom and priests to serve our God, ~ and who will reign on the earth.

↪↪ Rev. 5:6-10

▶▶ So we have Jesus ~ the King of kings and Lord of lords.

▷▷ We have God's children ~ made kings to rule under him.

↪↪ And between the King and those in his kingdom ~ we have the King's law ~ ¶¶

→→ that tells us how ~ to live for and serve him.

NOW LET'S DEFINE THIS ~ ROYAL LAW.

▶▶ To begin, ~ call attention to 2:12.

▷▷ Believers will be judged ~ under the law of liberty.

▷▷ In 1:25, ~ we said the same phrase ... ~ referred to ~ the word of God. ¶¶ 9/12

▶▶ Boiled down, ~ the royal law is referring to Scripture ~ in its entirety.

▷▷ Again, ~ Paul writes, ~ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

▶▶ God's Word ~ in its entirety = The Royal Law.

▷▷ And within it, ~ we are told ~ how citizens of God's kingdom ~ are to live.

▶▶ Further, ~ God's word contains ~ the gospel of grace ~ with all its implications.

▷▷ Also contains God's moral law.

▷▷ And, ~ when it comes to the entirety of the OT law ~ and the whole OT as well, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ we must ~ study, ~ interpret, ~ and apply it ~ through the grid ~ ¶¶

→→ of Jesus' teaching ~ and ~ of the teaching of rest of the NT.

↳↳ And thereby draw out the divine principles ~ that are for us.

▶▶ My ..., ~ ~ the Bible ~ is our authoritative rule of life.

▷▷ Royal law of the kingdom.

▷▷ It reveals God's will for how ~ we should think and live. ¶¶ 10/12

▷▷ So we should always read and study it with a view ~ to how it applies ~ to our daily lives.

↪↪ And then apply it ~ to our ~ thoughts, ~ words, ~ and actions.

▶▶ Additionally, ~ must stress ~ believers obey the royal law ~ not ~ ¶¶

▷▷ as a means to be right with God, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but ~ as a natural outflow ~ of genuine salvation.

NOW, ~ WITH ALL OF THAT AS OUR FOUNDATION, ~ ¶¶

LET'S COME BACK ~ TO JAMES' THIRD ARGUMENT AGAINST FAVORITISM.

▶▶ And i.e., ~ favoritism wrong ~ because violates God's royal law.

▷▷ Specifically, ~ the command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

▶▶ Briefly: ~ ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Favoritism is sin.

FLOW OF THOUGHT, ~ VV 8-13.

▶▶ Specifically, ~ showing favoritism ~ violates ~ command to our love neighbors as ourselves.

▷▷ Again, ~ elaborates, ~ detail, ~ but this is the bottom line. ¶¶ 11/12

▶▶ To break God's royal law ~ is sin.

▷▷ And to break even one part of it ~ is to break the whole.

▶▶ Since God's law will be the standard by which ~ 77

▷▷ believers will be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ, ~ 77

↳↳ we should live in light of that coming evaluation.

→→ Esp., ~ by not showing favoritism.

NEXT TIME ~ UNPACK VSS 8-13.

GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO LET WHAT WE STUDIED TODAY TO SINK IN.

▶▶ Sermon on line.

▷▷ Listen and/or download a hard copy. 12/12