

Two-part review of James.

James 1: ~ 2-4. ⇨⇨ Deals with ~ a biblical perspective on trials.

▶▶ Holding a biblical perspective on trials ~ is the correct way ~ to think about trials.

▷▷ And this correct thinking ~ will lead ~ to right behavior ~ within trials.

▶▶ Trials ➤ Testing Of Our Faith ➤ Endurance ➤ Spiritual Maturity.

▷▷ This ~ is the spiritual reality behind trials. ⇨⇨ [View through this grid.](#)

▶▶ And ~ it is this end goal, ~ spiritual maturity, ~ that is ~ the source ~ of our joy, ~ not ~ the trial, ~ but ~ what the trial ~ ultimately produces.

▷▷ Joy set before him

▷▷ Additionally, ~ this ultimate goal, ~ spiritual maturity ~ will give us motivation ~ to persevere ~ when our faith is tested ~ by trials of various kinds.

James 1:5-8.

Asking for wisdom.

▶▶ James points out ~ that this ~ is a key, ~ or, ~ perhaps the key ~ attribute ~ that Christians ~ must not lack ~ as we move ~ toward spiritual maturity.

In this paragraph, ~ James does the following. 1/10

▶▶1st, ~ he realistically recognizes ~ the believer's need for wisdom.

▶▶Next, ~ he ~ points out ~ how ~ the believer must get ~ the needed wisdom.

▷▷must ~ continually ~ ask God.

▶▶He then states ~ God is generous giver.

▶▶Next, ~ James assures us ~ God will give us ~ this wisdom ~ that we need.

▶▶But, ~ must ask in faith. ⇔⇔ Couple of things ~ involved here.

▷▷1st, ~ that God will heed our prayer, ~ and ~ grant it ~ or ~ only in his superior wisdom ~ deny it.

▷▷And 2nd, ~ that God ~ is who he says he is, ~ that he ~ is generous ~ and ~ that he ~ gives without any ~ negative, ~ critical, ~ or discouraging ~ response.

James 1:9-11.

Dealt with ~ poor Christians and rich Christians ~ and what they should boast in.

▶▶Poor Christians ~ are to boast ~ in their exalted spiritual position ~ in the kingdom of God.

▶▶The rich Christian should remember ~ that his status before God ~ is different ~ than his worldly status.

▷▷This spiritual status, ~ infinitely more significant, ~ does not take earthly wealth into account.

▶▶Furthermore, ~ the rich believer is to boast ~ not in his wealth or his elevated social position.

▷▷Rather, ~ are to boast ~ in their identification with Jesus, ~ a matter of "humiliation" ~ in the eyes of the world.

James 1:12

Reexamined Trials.

▶▶God blesses the believer ~ who perseveres under trial.

▶▶After enduring a trial ~ the believer will receive the crown of life ~~ that God has promised to those who love him.

▶▶Life here refers ~ to a present benefit ~ when we endure trials.

▷▷James has in mind ~ the way God enriches our present experience of life, ~~ when trials ~ have been successfully endured.

James 1:13-18.

In this paragraph, ~ James turned his attention ~ to the source of temptation.

▶▶James exhorts believers not to blame God for their temptations.

▶▶James goes on ~ to give two reasons ~ why we should not blame God for temptation.

▷▷1st, ~ God is not temptable and does not tempt.

▷▷ And 2nd, ~ an analysis ~ of the temptation and sin process ~ places responsibility for sin ~ squarely on humans

▶▶ Reviewed the dire consequences ~ of succumbing to temptation.

▷▷ After desire has conceived, ~ it gives birth to sin; ~ and sin, ~ when it is full-grown, ~ gives birth to death.

↳↳ Death then in this context, ~ refers to consequences of sin ~ suffered in this life.

▶▶ James then shifts discussion from ~ that of which God is not the source ~ to that ~ of which he is.

▷▷ Rather ~ than the source of temptation, ~ he is the source ~ of all that is good.

James 1:19-20.

Verses dealt with the theme of ~ speech ethics.

▶▶ Every believer ~ must continually be ~ quick to listen, ~ slow to speak, ~ and slow to get angry.

▶▶ Being quick ~ with regard to listening ~ requires us to be ~ eager ~ to listen ~ and attentive ~ to what is said.

▷▷ And also, ~ to be ready to ~ absorb ~ what is being said.

▶▶ Slow to speak ~ indicates ~ a sense of ~ hesitation or delay.

▷▷ We need to always be more willing ~ to listen ~ than to speak.

▶▶ And all believers ~ must continually ~ not get angry easily.

▷▷ To phrase it differently, ~ Believers must continually control their anger.

▷▷ What James prohibits ~ is the ~ thoughtless, ~ unrestrained temper ~~ that often leads to ~ rash, ~ harmful, ~ and irretrievable ~ words.

▷▷ Simply put, ~ James is banning ~ uncontrolled anger in conversing with others.

James 1:21-25.

Hearers and doers of the word.

▶▶ According to James, ~ however important may be ~ mental assent to the word, ~~ it has not been truly received ~ until ~ it is put into practice.

▶▶ Those who fail ~ to practice/obey the word, ~ who are *hearers only*, ~ are guilty ~ of a dangerous and potentially fatal ~ self-delusion.

▶▶ Those who hear ~ but do not put the word into practice ~ think that they have a relationship with God.

▷▷ That's because ~ they regularly ~ attend church, ~ go to Bible studies, ~ or read the Bible.

▶▶ But ~ if their listening is not accompanied by obedience, ~~ their true situation before God ~ is far different.

▷▷ Meaning ~ they do not have ~ a saving relationship with God.

▶▶ Something to give some serious thought to.

James 1:26-27

False Vs Authentic Religion/Faith.

▶▶ The person ~ who claims to be a Christian ~ and checks all the right boxes, ~~ like going to church, ~ etc., ~~ yet shows ~ no outward evidence ~ of inner transformation, ~ has an erroneous view ~ concerning their relationship with God.

▷▷ They believe ~ they have a relationship with God.

↪↪ When, ~ in fact, ~ their relationship with God ~ is non-existent.

▶▶ Genuine/saving faith, ~ on the other hand, ~ will always show outward evidence ~ of an inner transformation.

▷▷ James gave us ~ 2 ~ telltale signs ~ of genuine faith.

↪↪ 1st, ~ Substantive ministry.

→→ E.g., ~ a person who possess genuine faith ~ will imitate their heavenly Father ~ by intervening ~ to help the helpless.

↪↪ And 2nd telltale sign of genuine faith.

→→ The genuine believer will falter at times.

→→ But the typical response of the genuine believer ~ will be ~ to constantly and automatically ~ reject ~ the behavior and customs of this world.

James 2:1-13.

Warning against favoritism.

▶▶ The bottom line of this mini-essay is ~ favoritism is sin.

▶▶ James is using a specific example, ~ favoring the rich over the poor, ~ to illustrate ~ a much larger principle.

▷▷ Namely, ~ all forms of favoritism ~ are wrong and sinful.

↳↳ Not just favoring rich over the poor.

▶▶ Presented 3 arguments ~ against favoritism.

▷▷ The 1st two ~ applied directly ~ to James' specific example.

▷▷ The 3rd argument ~ was more general in nature.

↳↳ Favoritism in general ~ violates God's royal law. ⇨⇨ I.e., ~ God's word.

↳↳ Specifically, ~ the law to love our neighbor as ourselves.

↳↳ Showing favoritism of any kind, ~ James argues, ~ is a serious matter.

↳↳ No sin is ~ to be taken lightly ~ or ~ to be treated in a flippant manner.

↳↳ In God's eyes, ~ there is no such thing ~ as a minor or insignificant sin.

→→ E.g., ~ no such thing as ~ "little white lies." ⇨⇨ All lies are sin.

James 2:14-26.

Discussion ~ of faith and works. ⇔⇔ Most time on this. ☛☛ Last topic for today.

▶▶Premise, ~ a claim of faith ~ without the tangible evidence of its reality ~ cannot save.

▶▶Genuine Christian faith ~ always ~ displays the tangible evidence of its reality.

▷▷It may start out small, ~ when a person is first saved.

↪↪But as a genuine Christian matures spiritually, ~ tangible evidence piles up.

▶▶James then spends the rest of the ¶ ~ proving his premise.

Vv 15-16, ~ compares faith ~ without the corresponding deeds to a case of goodwill ~ without the corresponding deeds.

▶▶The conclusion: ~ neither ~ does any good.

In vs 17, ~ James applies the general principle ~ from his comparison.

▶▶I.e., ~ saying ~ or claiming ~ something ~ without the corresponding actions ~ is of no value.

In vss 18-25, ~ James continues to argue his case ~ using the style of ~ a dialogue with an imaginary objector.

▶▶In this dialogue, ~ two Scriptural examples, ~ Abraham and Rahab, ~ to show ~ that a faith ~ without tangible evidence of its reality, ~ is a useless and non-saving faith.

↪↪ Both examples illustrated James' premise.

→→ In that ~ they both ~ proved their faith was genuine ~ by their works.

Then in vs 26, ~ James signals the end of this mini-essay ~ by offering an illustration from daily life.

▶▶ Breathing ~ is an evidence of life.

▷▷ So too, ~ good works ~ are the evidence ~ of genuine faith.

James framed his discussion ~ of faith and works ~ in regard ~ to a person's claim ~ to have saving faith ~ and how such claims are validated.

▶▶ James insists throughout this ¶ ~ that mere profession of faith in Jesus ~ without visible good fruit, ~ i.e., ~ good deeds, ~ does not save ~ is not genuine.

▷▷ Vs. 14, ~ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

▷▷ Vs 17, ~ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

▷▷ Vs 26, ~ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

▷▷ Repetition shouts importance.

↪↪ And drives the point home.

▶▶ Important, ~ James uses deeds/works in this ¶ ~ in a specific sense ~ to refer to actions done ~ out of love for Jesus ~ and for His glory.

▶▶ Mere profession of faith in Jesus ~ without the tangible evidence of its reality ~ is as useless ~ 77

▷▷ as uttering kind words to a needy fellow Christian ~ while doing nothing to help.

↳↳ Vv 15-16, ~ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ~ 77

→→ "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

▶▶ Faith is ~ invisible, ~ yet authenticating deeds ~ make true faith ~ visible.

▷▷ Vs 18b, ~ Show me your faith apart from your works ~ [impossible], ~ and I will show you my faith by my works.

▶▶ By contrast, ~ mental assent, ~ such as confessing the unity of God ~ 19a, ~ 77

▷▷ is inadequate, ~ for even the demons confess that.

↳↳ And they're not saved.

→→ Vs 19b, ~ Even the demons believe this

And That Brings Us ~ To The Halfway Point ~ Of Our Recap Of James.

Next week, ~ we'll finish up our review.