

General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

Book of James

April 24, 2014

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General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

Apr 3 – Intro to NT General Epistles

Apr 10 – Book of Hebrews

Apr 17 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr 24 – Book of James

May 1 – **No Class**

May 8 – **No Class**

May 15 – Books of 1 & 2 Peter

May 22 – Books of 1,2,3 John; Jude

May 29 – Book of Revelation

June 5 – Conclusion; Final Exam

The Book of James

- ▶ **Author:** James, the brother of Jesus, and leader of the Jerusalem Council.
- ▶ **Date:** c. AD 45-49 (before AD 50)
- ▶ **Recipients:** Jewish Christians scattered throughout the Near East.
- ▶ **Theme:** Truth faith gives evidence through righteousness living.
- ▶ **Purpose:** While not contradicting Paul's emphasis on salvation by faith, James may have been written to balance Paul's theology (or vice versa).
- ▶ **Outline:**
 - *The Test of Faith (1:1-18)
 - *The Characteristics of Faith (1:19-5:6)
 - *The Triumph of Faith (5:7-20)

Main Points in James

▶ True religion . . .

- Endures trials and temptations (1:1-18)
- Consists of doing and not just hearing (1:19-2:26)
- Displays wisdom, not just speaking (3:1-18)
- Befriends God through humility (4:1-17)
- Is blessed through patience, prayer & love (5:1-20)

“Faith vs. Works”

Paul and James Compared

Paul

- Concern:** ▶ Legalists
- Emphasis:** ▶ Justification
before God by
faith
- Perspective:** ▶ Saving faith as
gift
- Result:** ▶ Received as an
eternal position
by believing in
Christ

James

- ▶ Libertines
- ▶ Vindication
before men by
works
- ▶ Mature faith in
action
- ▶ Demonstrated in
daily proof by
behaving like
Christ

The Book of James – Key Verses

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:19-25

The Book of James – Key Verses

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder.

James 2:14-19

The Book of James

- I. Greetings. (1:1)
- II. Trials and temptations (1:2-18)
 - A. The testing of faith (1:2-12)
 - B. The source of temptation (1:13-18)
- III. Listening and doing (1:19-27)
- IV. Favoritism forbidden (2:1-13)
- V. Faith and deeds (2:14-26)
- VI. Taming the tongue (3:1-12)
- VII. Two kinds of wisdom (3:13-18)

The Book of James

VIII. Warning against worldliness (ch.4)

A. Quarrelsomeness (4:1-3)

B. Spiritual unfaithfulness (4:4)

C. Pride (4:5-10)

D. Slander (4:11-12)

E. Boasting (4:13-17)

IX. Warning to rich oppressors (5:1-6)

X. Miscellaneous exhortations (5:7-20)

A. Concerning patience in suffering (5:7-11)

B. Concerning oaths (5:12)

C. Concerning the prayer of faith (5:13-18)

D. Concerning those who wander from the truth
(5:19-20)