James

- The first New Testament book
- Not “theological” but “practical”
- Loose associations?
- Recurring themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith</th>
<th>Wisdom</th>
<th>Steadfastness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trials</td>
<td>Devil/demons</td>
<td>Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humility</td>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>Wealth/poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return of the Lord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Dualism – real v. counterfeit
  wisdom, hearing the word, faith, religion
- Theme: be perfect and complete
- The “gold standard” for the Christian life is love.
- The nature of faith

Wisdom from Above: James 3:1-18

1. A warning for teachers (3:1-2)
2. A lesson on the tongue (3:3-12)
3. A lesson on wisdom (3:13-18)
A word of warning to the teacher
James 3:1-2

• Do not become teachers!
• The teacher has great responsibility
  Hebrews 13:17
  1 Corinthians 3:10-15
  James 5:19
• A warning to false teachers
  Matthew 18:1-9
• The context: The importance of what you do (2:26)
• The importance of what you say (3:2)
  2:14 – it is not what you say but what you do
  3:2 – it is not what you do but what you say
• Unqualified teachers (2:4, 4:11-12, 5:9)
• Matthew 26:73 – to Peter:
  “Your speech betrays you.”
A lesson on the tongue
James 3:3-12

• The tongue is powerful
  The horse
  The ship
  A small member that boasts of great things

• The tongue destroys
  A fire – destroys a great forest
  A fire in the body
  – A world of unrighteousness
  – Stains whole body
  – Sets on fire the entire course of life
  Matthew 15:8-20 n.b. v. 18

• The tongue is untamable
  All beasts can be tamed by mankind
  No human can tame the tongue

• The tongue is a restless evil
  It is full of deadly poison.
  Dualism – bless God and curse man

• These things ought not to be so.
  Springs do not give fresh and salt water
  Fig trees do not bear olives
  Grapevines do not produce figs
  Salt ponds do not yield fresh water.

• An insoluble problem is posed
A lesson on wisdom
James 3:13-18

• “Who is wise and understanding among you?”

• Earthly wisdom
  Jealousy
  Selfish ambition
  Boasting
  False to the truth
  Earthly – unspiritual – demonic
  Disorder and every vile practice

• Wisdom from above
  Pure
  Peaceable
  Gentle
  Open to reason
  Full of mercy
  Full of good fruits
  Impartial
  Sincere
  A harvest of righteousness