

# James

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

Faith	Wisdom	Steadfastness
Trials	Devil/demons	Prayer
Humility	Speaking	Wealth/poverty
Return of the Lord		

- 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

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## 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