

James

First apostolic writing of the New Testament

- ▶ Why did James write this letter?
 - 12 tribes in the Dispersion (1:1)
 - Trials of various kinds (1:2)
 - Discord in the believing community (4:1)
- ▶ What was James' message?
 - Explanation
 - trial of faith
 - Be perfect and complete
 - Exhortation
 - Rejoice
 - Be patient
 - Behave righteously
- ▶ What specific instructions did James give?
 - Wisdom (1:5; 3:17-18)
 - Material status (1:9-11; 2:1-7; 5:1-7)
 - God's work (1:5, 16-18; 2:5; 4:6)
 - Righteousness required (1:20; 3:18)
 - The Word is able to save your souls (1:21-25)
 - The tongue – must be bridled (1:26; 3:1-12)
 - The royal law (2:8) – love for your neighbor
 - Faith that works (2:14-26)
- ▶ Dualism
 - True and false religion (1:26-27)
 - True and false faith (2:14-26)
 - True and false wisdom (3:13-18)

James

Christianity 101

- ▶ The central theological passage: James 2:14-26
- ▶ The central practical passage: James 3:1-18

- ▶ Current lesson: Chapter 4
 1. James 4:1-10 – The passions within
 2. James 4:11-17 – Evil speaking

The Passions Within (4:1-6)

Quarrels and fights – wars and fighting (KJV) (4:1-3)

The problem – The desire for pleasure

- ▶ Lusts (4:1, 3)
 - Greek: HEDONON – craving pleasure
 - Luke 8:14; Titus 3:3; 2 Peter 2:13
- ▶ Lust or desire – (4:2)
 - Greek: EPITHUMEO – to covet or desire
 - James 1:14
- ▶ Covet – (4:2)
 - Greek: ZELOO – earnestly covet, envy
 - Acts 7:9; Mark 15:10
- ▶ Lust or jealously desire (4:5)
 - Greek: EPIOTHEO – crave possession

The false hope of pleasure

- ▶ Isaiah 57:20-21
- ▶ James 3:15-16

The lack of wisdom

- ▶ not ask
- ▶ Self seeking

“Adulteresses”

- ▶ O.T. image of bride
- ▶ World and God – mutually exclusive
- ▶ 1 John 2:15-17 (“EPITHUMEO”)

The pleasure of God (4:5)

- ▶ The Holy Spirit
- ▶ Grace

James 4:5

KJV

Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

NKJV

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

ESV

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

NASB

Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?

Subduing the passions within (4:7-10)

- ▶ Submit to God
- ▶ Resist the devil
- ▶ Draw near to God
- ▶ Cleanse your hands
- ▶ Purify your hearts you double minded
- ▶ Be wretched, mourn and weep
- ▶ Let laughter be turned to mourning and joy to gloom
- ▶ Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you

Evil speaking (4:11-17)

Do not speak evil against one another (4:11-12)

- ▶ 1 Peter 2:12; 3:16
- ▶ Within the community of saints
- ▶ A slanderous statement that arises out of hatred
- ▶ Speak against and judge the Law
 - The Royal Law (2:8)
 - Adding to the Law
- ▶ Despising the Lord
 - He is the Judge
 - He saves
- ▶ James 3:17 – Wisdom from above – full of mercy

Boasting in arrogance (4:13-17)

- ▶ Planning for the future
 - Plan to go to a particular location
 - Plan to keep a particular time table
 - Plan to engage in a particular activity
 - Plan to achieve a particular outcome
- ▶ Failure to recognize
 - Inability to know the future
 - The transience of life
- ▶ The assessment of God:
 - Evil boasting and arrogance
 - It is sin or evil.

True faith does good

- ▶ the Royal Law
- ▶ the will of God