**"THE EPISTLE OF JAMES"**

**FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.**

**2 MAIN REASONS WHY WE SHOULD STUDY OUT THIS CHAPTER**

1) To become aware of the sin and danger of showing personal favoritism, especially the rich.

2) To understand the folly of faith without works, how that faith without works is a dead faith!

**A brief synopsis and breakdown of these two reasons**

**In verses(1-13).**

In this chapter we first find a call to hold the faith of Jesus Christ without partiality. Evidently some were displaying favoritism toward the rich in their assemblies, while despising the poor. Showing respect

of persons made one a judge with evil thoughts, and James provides several reasons why such prejudice was unbecoming of those who believe in Jesus and worthy of condemnation.

**Next in verses (14-26)**.

James then addresses the relationship between faith and works, especially the folly of professing faith when unaccompanied by works. Using several examples to make his point, including those of Abraham

the friend of God and Rahab the harlot, James declares three times that faith without works is dead.

**OUTLINE**

**I. TRUE RELIGION DOES NOT SHOW PARTIALITY (1-13)**

**A. SUCH AS SHOWING PREFERENCE TO THE RICH (1-5)**

1. The faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, is not

to be held with partiality. ***What is meant by partiality?***

Apparently, James being led of the Spirit was shown that something was not right in the church and was led to correct in part the leaders of the church…..here’s what he said…

***Verses 1-5 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.2For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;3And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:4Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?5Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?***

**B. REASONS NOT TO SHOW PARTIALITY TOWARD THE RICH**

***Scriptures (6-13) 6But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?7Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?8If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well:9But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.10For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.***

***Here’s the breakdown of these scriptures and the 6 reasons why we must refrain from being partial to some…especially to the rich and those who are well off.***

1. It makes one a judge with evil thoughts and intentions. it also opens a door to malice!!

2. Has not God chosen the poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?

3. Have not the rich oppressed and blasphemed you?

4. Does not the royal law call upon us to love our neighbor?

5. Partiality will convict us as transgressors, even if we stumble in only one point.

6. We shall be judged by the law of liberty, in which judgment without mercy is given to those who

show no mercy.

**II. TRUE RELIGION SHOWS FAITH THROUGH WORKS**

1. **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS CANNOT SAVE ONE**

***Scriptures (14-19) 14What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?15If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,16And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?17Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.18Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.19Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.***

***Here’s the breakdown of these scriptures and why we must activate our faith focused on Jesus….***

1. **What profit is there in faith without works?**

a. Can such faith save one?

b. Is there any profit to tell a naked and destitute person to be warm and filled, and not give them

what they need?

c. Thus faith by itself, without works, is dead.

2**. Beloved, Faith is shown by one's works….**

a. It is not enough to claim to have faith……many do this, and faith fails them!!

b. The devils believe in God, and tremble.

1. **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD (21-26)**

**James gives us two very important examples….Important because of the two extreme positions of the nature of the lifestyles and scope of these two individuals…..from a holy and righteous person to the lowest and destitute person on earth**

**James 2:21-24**

***21Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?22Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?23And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.24Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only***

**1. As exemplified by Abraham, the friend of God**

a. Who was justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar.

b. His faith was working with his works, and by them perfected his faith.

c. By his works the Scripture was fulfilled that declared him faithful and righteous.

**Now let us look at the other spectrum……….**

**2. As exemplified by Rahab, the harlot**

**James 2:25-26**

***.25Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?26For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.***

a. Rahab was justified by works when she hid the spies.

b. Thus faith without works is dead, just as the body without the spirit is dead.

Here is exactly how to activate your faith by works…….

You say you need a new wardrobe your closets are filled but, nothing fits, out of style, faded, clothes are old, you’ve used them on many occasions that people think you have nothing else to wear, time for a change , here’s where it begins….take every thing you feel it needs to go out of your closet and give them away to those who truly can use them and you put works and faith together and watch if God will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing your closets will begin to prosper beyond your wildest imagination!!!!!

**BELOVED FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD !!**

**REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER**

**1) What are the main points of this chapter?**

- True religion does not show partiality (1-13)

- True religion shows faith through works (14-26)

**2) With what is one not to hold the faith of our Lord Jesus? (1)**

- Partiality, or respect of persons (i.e., prejudice)

**3) What example does James use to illustrate his point? (2-3)**

- Showing preference to a rich man over a poor man in the assembly

**4) Of what is one guilty when they show partiality? (4)**

- Becoming a judge with evil thoughts and intentions.

**5) Why should one not show prejudice against the poor? (5)**

- God has chosen them to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom

which He has promised to those who love Him

**6) What had the rich been doing against those to whom James wrote this**

**epistle? (6-7)**

- Oppressing them and dragging them into the courts

- Blaspheming the noble name by which they were called

**7) What would be well for them to do? (8)**

- To fulfill the royal law: "You shall love your neighbor as

yourself"

**8) What is the consequence of showing partiality? (9)**

- Committing sin and being convicted by the law as transgressors

**9) Of what is one guilty if they stumble in just one point of the law?**

**(10-11)**

- Guilty of all; a transgressor of the law

**10) How then should they speak and act? Why? (12-13)**

- As those who will judged by the law of liberty

- Judgment is without mercy to one who shows no mercy, and mercy

triumphs over judgment

**11) What question does James address next? (14)**

- What does it profit if one says he has faith, but does not have

works?

**12) What example is given to illustrate the futility of faith without**

**works? (15-16)**

- Telling a naked and hungry person to be warmed and filled, but

then do nothing to help

**13) What is the condition of faith by itself, without works? (17)**

- It is dead

**14) How does James challenge the person who only has faith? (18)**

- Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by

works

**15) What example does James use next to show the futility of faith**

**only? (19)**

- That of demons, who believe in God

**16) How was Abraham justified? When? (21)**

- By works

- When he offered Isaac his son on the altar

**17) What was the relation between Abraham's faith and works? (22)**

- Faith was working together with his works

- By works his faith was made perfect

**18) What two things were the result of Abraham's works? (23)**

- The Scriptures were fulfilled which said he believed God and it

was accounted to him for righteousness

- He was called the friend of God

**19) What point did the example of Abraham illustrate? (24)**

- A man is justified by works, and not by faith only

**20) What final example does James appeal to? (25)**

- Rahab the harlot, who was justified when she hid the two spies

**21) What is James' conclusion regarding faith and works? (26)**

- As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is

dead also