

James

~Authentic Faith At Work~

The teacher
always learns
more than the
students

Give a man a fish and
you feed him for a
day.

Teach a man to fish
and you feed him for
a lifetime.



context



ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS



Application

James 1:1

“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.”

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“James, a bond-servant of God and of
the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve
tribes who are called God:
Greetings.”



James 1:1

“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.”

Overview & Introduction

1. James was written by which James?

a) James the brother of John & the son of Zebedee

b) James the Less the son of Alphaeus

c) James the father of Judas (not Iscariot)

d) James the oldest half brother of Jesus.

Overview & Introduction

1. James was written by
which James?

d) James the
oldest half
brother of Jesus.

Overview & Introduction

- Matthew 13:55-56 *“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?”*

Overview & Introduction

- John 7:2-5 *“Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. Therefore His brothers said to Him, Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world. For not even His brothers were believing in Him.”*

Overview & Introduction

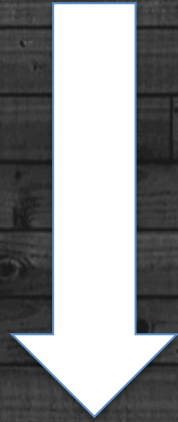
- 1 Cor. 15:5-7 “*and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;*”
- James becomes the Pastor of the church in Jerusalem until he is martyred.
- Date: A.D. 44-49 – The earliest of the NT books to be written.

Overview & Introduction

- James is not a doctrinal treatise, but an intensely practical manual for Christian living.
- It's 108 verses are full of imperatives (commands) about how the Christian life is to be lived.
 - Is God changing me?
 - Is there an observable difference in my life?
 - Have I grown content and complacent in living the Christian life?

Overview & Introduction

Knowing



Doing

Overview & Introduction

“The epistle sternly insists upon Christian practice consistent with Christian belief, heaps scathing contempt upon all empty profession, and administers a stinging rebuke to the readers’ worldliness. Its stress upon the gospel’s ethical imperative makes the epistle as relevant today as when it was first written.”

- Edmond Hiebert

Overview & Introduction



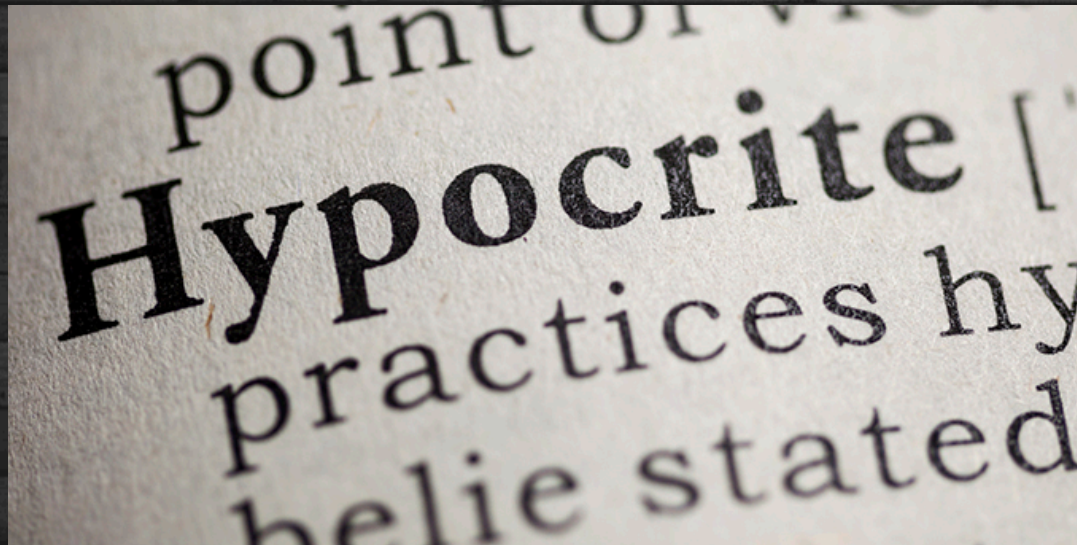
Overview & Introduction

“James has much to say about faith, but he is not concerned with developing a theological exposition of the nature of faith. His concern is rather that believers manifest an active faith in daily life. He assumes that a saving faith accepts Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior, but his purpose is to goad his readers effectively to realize that a saving faith is a living, active faith, for ‘faith without works is dead’ (2:20).” - Edmond Hiebert

Overview & Introduction

Objection:

“I don’t want to come to church because churches are full of _____”



Overview & Introduction

Tests:

- Perseverance
- Temptation
- Response to the Word
- Impartial Love
- Works
- Tongue
- Wisdom
- Worldliness
- And more...



Stop
talking,
start
doing.

Overview & Introduction

- James is compared with wisdom literature, especially the book of Proverbs.
- James was profoundly influenced by the Sermon on the Mount. Some would view this book as a practical commentary on Jesus' sermon.
 - There are 21 references or allusions to the Sermon on the Mount.

James 1:1

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James 1:1

- What are some other ways that James could have referred to himself?
 - The son of Mary
 - The brother of Jesus
 - The Senior Pastor of the Jerusalem Church
 - A personal eyewitness of the resurrected Christ



James 1:1

- He simply calls himself the bond-servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Who wants to be a bond-servant?
 - A bond-servant is a slave deprived of all personal freedom, and under the total control of the master.
 - Every one of us serves a master. What master controls us?

James 1:1

- We live in days of identity crisis.
 - How do you identify?
 - James identifies himself by that most important description of belonging to God as His bond-servant.
 - He is related to God not by his own blood, but in the same way every Christian is related to God – by the precious blood of Christ.

James 1:1

“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.”

James 1:1

- James writes to the Jews who were dispersed outside the boundaries of Palestine.
 - There was a great persecution after the stoning of Stephen that drove people to various places (Acts 8:1,4).
- He often refers to them as “brothers” which shows us that he is addressing Jewish Christians.
 - These believers were rejected by the Jews as “outsiders” and rejected by the people in the foreign regions as outsiders. They were Christians facing hardship.

Conclusion

- In every circumstance of life, God's people need God's Word.
- We need to be reminded of who we are (bond-servants of God).
- We need to be reminded of how God has called us to live as his people.
- We need God's wisdom for living life.