

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Epistles

October 22: James 1-3 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, October 22 ~ James 1 - 3

James, a brother of Jesus, wrote this letter to help address the new gentile converts who were coming into the church (Acts 15:13-21). This letter was addressed to the twelve tribes of Israel. This letter addresses the need for action (works) in your Christian life and how important they are.

CH 1

Count it Joy when you are going through trails as this produces perseverance. Perseverance produces maturity in your Christian body. It's hard when we go through these trails but it is what makes you and shows your true belief in God! Those who preserve through their trials are blessed as they will receive the crown of life.

If you lack wisdom, then ask God for understanding and believe with all your being that God will deliver that wisdom for you. If you doubt God will deliver what you need, you will not receive it. God is looking for true belief of the individual.

When a poor person gets a break in life, cheer for them. When a rich person is humbled, cheer as well. Prosperous times flee by quickly like wildflowers.

It is so very important to remind ourselves of this next statement! Don't blame God when you are tempted saying God is tempting me. That's not possible. Your desires are bringing sin into your life, which if not cut out can ultimately lead to death.

...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." 19-20

How many of us really need to work on our anger as it does get the best of us at times! Often times the anger is due to some kind of selfishness we have when we should be patient or faith in God instead to handle our issues.

Don't merely just read the scripture and hear the word and then forget what you just heard of read, use it and keep it in your mind. Make good use of what you have learned!! You will be blessed for following the perfect law you have learned.

"Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." 26-27

Watch what you say!!! So many times I hear people who claim to have religion in their life swear like sailors! They speak filthy just like everyone else in the world. There is no separation from them and the world.

The last verse is beautiful in the fact of putting your faith into action in helping others! Widows and orphans need our help! In doing so you are demonstrating God's love for them.

CH 2

Watch how you treat others. Don't show favoritism to a well dressed individual that you wouldn't likewise show towards a poor person dressed in tattered clothing. In so doing you are harvesting evil thoughts in showing favoritism. Keep in mind who God sees as being put on earth as being rich spiritually.

“But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” 9-10
Be cautious in not only this treatment in rich verses poor, but also with showing favoritism in others talents as well. Placing people who possibly sing better at the front of the church or who look more pleasing to the eyes... Use mercy upon others as the same level of mercy will be shown into you.

The next group of verses is critical for Christians to understand!! “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” 2:17 faith workout works is useless! Likewise works without faith is useless as well. God requires both!! “You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” 2:24, 26

CH 3

“The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” 3:6, 8

Consider your words carefully! When teaching the body of Christ, great importance on what the tongue says is needed! From this scripture here, or tongue can start a small fire which will manifest itself into a great wildfire! As Christians we really need to be mindful of what we are going to say as we don't want to spread wildfires either knowingly or unknowingly!! Out of a mouth that praises God also comes cursing? Be careful with such a powerful small part of our body!!

Being wise as a Christian is shown through your actions and staying humble. Being wise is not shown by bragging of your wisdom. Being wise as a Christian is not trying to upstage others and flaunt yourself as being wise. Being unpredictable in temperament is not showing wisdom of God.

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” 3:17

Live peacefully with each other.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, brother Ryan!

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:

U r so welcome, Butch O'Neal

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Ryan! This is another wonderful book. I love how our studies intertwine! It seems to be that James wrote this letter as leader from the Jerusalem congregation to Christians dispersed after the stoning of Stephen. His instruction & encouragement would have given great joy in the face of their difficulties.

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:

You are so correct! James is such a critical book to our understanding!!

October 29: James 4-5 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, October 29th ~ James 4 & 5

CH 4

Be careful with what you desire as worldly possessions! Don't get carried away with your earthly possessions and covet what your neighbor has... God will not provide what you don't need. If you desire to be friendly with the world and have all the world has, you are an enemy of God's.

It's good to remind ourselves of this... "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 4:6. This is why God loves humble people as they desire God and his righteousness over what the world has to offer them. When we are proud and have all we need, we feel less dependant on God to provide for our needs.

Change your behavior. Flee from evil and the devil will flee from you. Humble yourself before God! Be in mourning of your past and change for the better as you embrace God.

God is the judge. He made the law. Don't go around judging each other, trying to find fault with brothers and sisters, but instead be more interested in making sure you are following the law!

Don't get too certain of the future! "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." 4:14. We don't even know if we will be here the next minute in time! Death is always waiting, ready to knock on our door... When addressing things of the future, we should say, "If it is the Lord's will...". When we take this stance, it helps to keep us humble as we understand how insignificant we really are in this life.

Lastly, "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." 4:17. If we see something we can do that is a good deed and don't do it, we are sinning. Don't boast of how great you are in the deeds you do as this is not showing a humble spirit.

CH 5

James makes note here of how the wealthy among them are going to receive what is coming their way. They have mistreated their workers and have hoarded their wealth to themselves. Their time is coming!

Be patient! The Lord's coming is very near. Don't cause issues with your brothers and sisters for you will be judged for your actions. God is always near! Keep in mind how patient Job was through his persecution from Satan.

If you're in trouble, pray! If you're happy, pray! If you're sick, all of the elders to pray. Always try earnestly to pray to God in all times. Pray for one another. "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." 5:16

If you are able to turn a person who is in error back to God, has saved a soul from perishing.

James offered many great tidbits of information that is still relevant yet today. Excellent letter for us to refresh ourselves on regarding not only having faith but doing works as well.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, brother Ryan!

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:
You're certainly welcome brother Butch O'Neal!

Comment:

Joyce Ingle:
Very good passages

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Ryan: thank you for covering yet another excellent epistle! I hadn't remembered until tonight this is the only place Job is mentioned in the NT.