



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 56

Name: _____

James

The General Epistle of James was written by “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” There are four men with the name of James in the New Testament. James, a son of Zebedee and brother of John, was killed shortly after Jesus’ resurrection; therefore, he is not considered to be the author of this book. James, the son of Alphaeus, at times called “James the less,” was one of the disciples, but otherwise is unknown. It is doubtful that he is the author. James, the father of Judas [not Iscariot], is mentioned as the father of one of the twelve disciples, but otherwise is unknown. He is not thought to be the author. Most of the expositors of Scripture point to James, the Lord’s brother and one of the “pillars” of the church in Jerusalem [Acts 15], as the probable author of this book. James addressed this book to the “twelve tribes,” meaning the early Christians that were “scattered abroad,” likely living in Gentile communities outside of Palestine. This book, or letter, was written in approximately 49 A.D., prior to the Jerusalem Council held in 50 A.D. The purpose of this letter is to emphasize the necessity of works to prove a person’s faith to be genuine. James also wishes to teach right Christian behavior, expose hypocritical positions, and encourage Christians as they face trials and persecution.

1. Which James is the likely author of the book of James? _____
2. Describe 2 places where he is mentioned in Scripture: _____

3. How does James introduce himself? “James, a _____ of _____
and of the _____.”
4. Give one reason why this book is thought to be the earliest epistle written.

5. What is his reason for writing this book? _____

*Read
Chapter 1*

Chapter 1: Faith Tested by Trial

James, by means of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes about “Faith Tested by Trial.” He does not say “if you face trials,” but “when ye fall into divers temptations.” He assumes that all Christians will have trials and can profit from them. He encourages a positive outlook (“count it all joy”) because of what trials can produce in our lives. Hardships can be a time of learning and can teach us patience and perseverance.

6. Of what value is trial of faith? “...it worketh _____.”
7. Wisdom is needed for trials. Where does God tell us to seek wisdom? “If any of you lack _____, let Him _____ of _____, that giveth to all _____.”
8. Look up these verses to see where wisdom is to be found:
 - a. Job 28:28 “The _____, that is wisdom.”
 - b. Psalm 111:10 “The _____ is the beginning of wisdom.”
 - c. Proverbs 2:6 “For _____ giveth wisdom, out of _____.”
 - d. Proverbs 29:15 “_____ give wisdom.”
9. In this context, the wisdom may be to understand the trials in a person’s life. As one asks for wisdom to understand, how should he ask for it? “But let him ask in _____, nothing _____.”
10. What is the difference between “trial” and “temptation”? _____

11. What blessing is there for the person that endures temptation (v. 12)? _____

12. Does God tempt (v. 13)? _____
13. Explain. _____

14. How then, would you explain Genesis 22:1? _____

15. Where do temptations/sin come from?

- a. _____ (Matt. 4:1, I Cor. 7:5)
- b. _____ (Matt. 18:7-9, James 1:14-15)
- c. _____ (Mark 9:42)
- d. _____ Matt. 7:13-14)

16. How should we deal with temptation?

- a. _____ (Matt. 4:1-11)
- b. _____ (Matt. 26:41, Luke 22:40, 46, 2 Tim. 2:22)
- c. _____ (I Peter 5:8)
- d. _____ (Eph. 6:11)

17. What benefits does God bestow (v. 17-18)? _____

18. What does James say about faith without deeds?

- a. It comes from within.
- b. He gives examples of it from the Old Testament.
- c. It is a part of our sinful nature.
- d. It is useless and dead.

19. Name 5 admonitions, which James gives as instruction in verses 19-21.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

20. What instruction is given in verse 22? “_____,
_____.”

21. How is religion often portrayed by the world? When someone is described as

“religious” on the street or in modern media, what is meant? _____

22. What does external religion need in order to be genuine? _____

23. What is the difference between knowing and doing God's will? _____

24. What is pure religion, according to James? " _____

25. Now in your own words, what is pure religion, according to James?

a. _____

b. _____

Evaluator: _____

Meditation:

Every one that gets to the throne must put his foot upon the thorn. The way to the crown is by the cross. We must taste the gall, if we are to taste the glory. If justified by faith, we must suffer tribulations also. When God brought Israel through the Red Sea, He led them into the wilderness; so when God saves a soul He tries it. He never gives faith without trying it. The way to Zion is through the valley of Baca. You must go through the wilderness of Jordan, if you are to come to the Land of Promise. Some believers are much surprised when they are called to suffer. They thought they would do some great thing for God; but all that God permits them to do is *to suffer*. Go round to everyone in glory; everyone has a different story, yet everyone has a tale of suffering. One was persecuted by his family, by his friends and companions; another was visited by sore pains and humbling disease, or neglected by the world; another was bereaved of children; another had all these afflictions meeting in one – deep called unto deep. But mark, all are brought out of them. It was a dark cloud, but it passed away; the water was deep, but they have reached the other side. Not one of them blames God for the road He led them; "Salvation" is their only cry. Is there any one of you, dear children of God, murmuring at your lot? Do not sin against God. This is the way God leads all His redeemed ones. You must have a palm as well as a white robe. No pain, no palm; no cross, no crown; no thorn, no throne; no gall, no glory. Learn to glory in tribulations also. "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us."

Taken from: "Gems of R.M. McCheyne"