

Outline of the Book of James

The Epistle of James – “The Practice of Christianity”

Chapter Titles

Chapter One

The Believer and Temptation

Chapter Two

The Believer and Faith and Works

Chapter Three

The Believer and the Tongue and Wisdom

Chapter Four

The Believer and Pride and Humility

Chapter Five

The Believer and Patience and Prayer

CHAPTER ONE – The Believer and Temptation

A. Outline of the Chapter

- i. Greetings and Salutations 1:1
- ii. The Joy and Wisdom found in Trials and Testings 1:2 – 1:11
- iii. Overcoming Temptation 1:12 – 1:27

B. Key Words and Chapter Themes

1. Temptation, tempted, tempt – 1:12, 13, 13, 13, 13, 14
2. Patience – 1:3, 4
3. Faith 1:3, 6
4. Work 1:4, 25
5. Word 1:18, 21, 22, 23

SUMMARY – The believer will experience trials and testing. Know that through the working of God’s wisdom that patience will refine godly character in the believer’s life. The product of faith and works is pure religion before God.

CHAPTER TWO – The Believer and Faith and Works

A. Outline of Chapter

- i. The Dangers of Partiality 2:1 – 13
- ii. Faith and Works in the Christian Life 2:14 –2:26

B. Key Words and Chapter Themes

1. Faith – 2:1, 14, 14, 17, 18, 18, 18, 20, 22, 22, 24, 26
2. Works, Working – 2:14, 17, 18, 18, 18, 20, 21, 22, 22, 22, 24, 25, 26
3. Justified – 2:21, 24, 25
4. Respect (KJV) – 2:1, 3, 9; substituted for ‘partiality’ in NKJV except for verse 4
5. Judgement – 2:13, 13
6. Mercy – 2:13, 13

SUMMARY – All are equal in Christ; the rich and the poor and we must treat people as such. Faith without works is dead. The lifestyle of the believer must combine the two, in order for a lifestyle of godly example to emerge. Old Testament examples show that the Christian faith is justified by its works.

CHAPTER THREE – The Believer and the Tongue and Wisdom

A. Outline of Chapter

- i. The Untamable Tongue 3:1 – 3:12
- ii. Two Types of Wisdom 1:13 – 18

B. Key Words and Chapter Themes

1. Tongue 3:5, 6, 6, 8
2. Wise, Wisdom 3:13, 13, 15, 17

SUMMARY – The tongue is a powerful entity within the believer’s bodies. It controls the whole body and produces fruit of the body. Heavenly wisdom should guide actions, producing understanding and representing the fruit of the Spirit of God.

CHAPTER FOUR – The Believer and Pride and Humility

A. Outline of Chapter

- i. Pride 4:1 – 4:6
- ii. True Humility 4:7 – 4:10
- iii. Brotherly Love 4:11 – 4:12
- iv. Boasting 4:13 – 4:17

B. Key Words and Chapter Themes

- i. Wars and fights 4:1, 1, 2,
- ii. Speaks evil 4:11, 11, 11
- iii. Proud 4:6
- iv. Boast, boasting 4:16, 16
- v. Judge or Judges 4:11, 11, 11, 12

SUMMARY – Pride and humility are the two opposing forces of human nature. When our pride is submitted to Christ, then true humility will occur (James 4:6). There is a call to separate ourselves from the world so as to be wholly devoted to Christ and His calling.

CHAPTER FIVE – The Believer and Patience and Prayer

A. Outline of Chapter

- i. Rich Oppressors will be Judged 5:1-6
- ii. Patience and Persevering 5:7-12
- iii. Ministering to the Body of Christ 5:13 –20

B. Key Words and Chapter Themes

- i. Rich, Riches, Gold/Silver, Treasure 5:1, 2, 3, 3
- ii. Patient/Wait 5:7, 7, 77, 8, 10
- iii. Pray, Prayer 5:13, 14, 15, 16, 16, 17, 18

SUMMARY – The activity of the materialist is to gain as much as they can, but the Bible clearly warns us about the unworthiness of treasures on earth. Those who held back and did not care for the less fortunate will be judged. Christians are to wait patiently for Christ's return, to 'establish our hearts' and care for the Body of Christ until he returns for His spotless Bride.

The book of James is a practical outworking of Christianity in daily life. It is to help mature the Christian in his faith. Our faith will be evidenced in how we face trials (Chap. One), in how we treat people (Chap. Two), in what we say (Chap. Three), in how we deal with sin in our lives (Chap. Four) and in our prayer life (Chap. Five).

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