

## The Letter of James

### Chapter I

1. Address and greeting (1:1)
2. The Christian way of dealing with trials (1:2-4)
3. The relationship of wisdom, prayer, faith, doubt and stability (1:5-8)
4. The transience of earthly wealth (1:9-11)
5. Distinctions among trial, temptation and sin (1:12-15)
6. God, the source of all good (1:16-18)
7. Hearing, responding and self-control (1:19-21)
8. On hearing and doing God's Word (1:22-25)
9. One illustration of (not a definition) of pure religion (1:26-27)

### Chapter II

1. Belief in Christ rejects partiality or deference toward the rich (2:1-7)
2. Christian love for the "neighbor" rejects such partiality (2:8-9)
3. Love for neighbor illustrated as a kind of Christian "law" (2:10-13)
4. James' views on the relationship of faith and works (2:14-26)

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  - 1) A warning to teachers (3:1-2)
  - 2) The power of the tongue and the need for control (3:3-5)
  - 3) Sins related to the misuse of the tongue (3:6-12)
2. An illustration of true wisdom (3:13-18)

### Chapter IV

1. On personal individual piety in contrast to a "worldly" life (4:1-10)
2. Relationship to others based on awareness of the law, the Lawgiver and Judge (4:11-12)
3. Sin of presumption vs. true humility (4:13-16)
4. The sin of omission (4:17)

### Chapter V

1. Judgment on rich people (5:1-6)
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3. Oaths forbidden (5:12)
4. Prayer and healing (5:13-18)
5. On reclaiming sinners (5:19-20)

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EPISTLE OF JAMES

Salutation: 1:1

I. Reality vs. Sham 1:2-2:26.

1. Reality in Character 1:2-18

- (1) Constancy a goal 1:2-8
- (2) Poverty no evil; wealth no advantage 1:9-11
- (3) Reward of constancy 1:12
- (4) Sin not to be excused by blaming temptation on God 1:13-18
  - a. God is untemptable and does not tempt
  - b. He is Benefactor--good comes from Him
  - c. He is Father--so would not tempt

2. Reality in Public Worship 1:19-27

- (1) Not speech but attentive hearing 1:19-21
- (2) Not hearing only but doing 1:22-25
- (3) Not empty worship but good deeds and purity 1:26-27

3. Reality in Love (vs. Sham) 2:1-13

- (1) Sham love shown in partialities 2:1-7
- (2) Partiality on pretext of love 2:8-13

4. Reality in Faith (vs. Sham) 2:14-26

- (1) Faith and works inseparable in Christian life 2:14-18
- (2) Illustrated in Abraham 2:19-24
- (3) Illustrated in Rahab 2:25
- (4) The principle restated 2:26

II. Teachers, Tongues, and Wisdom Chapter 3.

1. Greater Responsibility and danger 3:1-12

- (1) Warning against eagerness to be teachers 3:1
- (2) Dangers of the tongue 3:2-12
  - a. Its influence 3:2-3
  - b. Small but powerful (Rudder, Fire) 3:4-6
  - c. Untameable 3:7-12

2. True Wisdom vs. False 3:13-18

- (1) The life will declare it 3:13
- (2) Earthly wisdom and its fruits 3:14-16
- (3) Heavenly wisdom and its truth 3:17-18

### III. The World vs. God: Chapters 4-5.

#### 1. Pleasure an end vs. God 4:1-10

- (1) Quarrels and wars come from pleasure as end 4:1-2b
- (2) Pleasure as end robs one of source of real satisfaction  
4:2c-3
- (3) Pleasure as end is adultery 4:4
- (4) God, a jealous lover, will not tolerate rival 4:5-6
  - a. Demands unwavering loyalty
  - b. Gives more than enough grace for loyalty
  - c. This grace is for those who submit

#### 2. Presumption vs. Submission: 4:11-17

- (1) Usurping God's place as judge 4:11-12
- (2) Illustrated by presumption of traders 4:13-16
- (3) Warning in an axiom: "You have now been fully warned."  
4:17

#### 3. Insubordination to God results in cruelty and luxury with impending miseries 5:1-6

#### 4. Christian conduct in a passing world 5:7-20

- (1) Patience in view of Lord's return 5:7-8
- (2) Don't blame others for present distress 5:9
- (3) Imitate constancy of prophets and Job 5:10-11
- (4) Above all--do not break out in oaths 5:12
- (5) Pray, sing, share in times of troubles, sickness, temptation, and errors 5:13-20