

James

Introduction and James 1

Author

- James 1:1
- James wrote the book.
 - Which James? 3 good candidates.
 - Matthew 10:2-4. Two James mentioned as apostles.
 - Matthew 13:54-57. James, the Lord's brother.
- James, Jesus' brother, is the best candidate when secular history is taken in to account.

James' Profile

- James started off as an unbeliever.
 - John 7:35
- James is recorded praying.
 - Acts 1:14
- James is a believer.
 - Acts 15:13
- James is a pillar.
 - Galatians 2:9

What Caused the Change?

- Not told specifically in the Bible.
- However, consider that the first time we see faith in James is less than 50 days after his Brother's death.
- Also, consider 1 Corinthians 15:3-7.
- It is highly likely that the resurrection changed James' mind about Jesus.
- Don't you appreciate James 1:1 more?

Recipients

- James 1:1
 - “To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad...”
 - James is writing to Israel.
- Spiritual Israel or physical Israel?
 - While not of great consequence, it was probably written to the Jews.
- Whatever the case, the recipients are already believers. Cf. 1:2; 2:1

Purpose of James

- The key word of James is faith.
 - Faith demonstrates itself in obedience.
- This book is practical.
- This book is challenging.

James vs. Paul?

- James 2:24
- Romans 5:1
- We will deal with these texts in James 2 in more detail but there is no contradiction.

James 1:2-4

- In life we will face various trials.
 - Persecution, health, natural disaster, problems in the church, financial etc.
- How are we to count it all joy?
 - See the end result. Look long-term.
 - Patience is being produced in us and we are becoming mature. 1:3, 4
 - Romans 5:3, 4
 - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

James 1:5-8

- Trials are tough, unpleasant, etc., but God will show us the way if we ask in faith.
 - Ask without doubting; God gives liberally.
 - God is willing to share His spiritual treasures with you.

What 1:5 Does Not Teach

- “If you lack knowledge of God’s will, pray about it and God will confirm it for you...”
 - “I prayed about it and I know this is right.”
- Some want to ask God for wisdom but don’t want to search.
- Look to God’s revealed word. Then ask for wisdom in understanding and applying.

James, the Illustrator

- James uses word pictures frequently.
 - 1:6. A wave of the sea.
 - Conception, birth, and sin. 1:14, 15
 - Mirror and God's word. 1:23
 - The tongue and the rudder. 3:4
 - The tongue and the forest fire. 3:5, 6
 - The tongue and springs of water. 3:11

Conclusion

- James is a hard-hitting book.
- Do you know what you need to do but for some reason haven't done it yet?
- Don't be a double-minded man. 1:8
- Come to the Lord today!