

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #47 – James

PRAYER:

Father in heaven, I look to You for guidance on my earthly pilgrimage. I need to be reminded often of Your will for me. As I study James' letter, show me the way to live a God-pleasing life. Help me to put my faith into action and let other people see in me Jesus my Lord. Amen.

Notes on James:

The author of this general letter is thought to be James, the half-brother of Jesus. He is mentioned as a leader in the earthly church in Acts 12:17; 15; 21:18; Galatians 1:19; 2:9; I Corinthians 15:7 and Jude 1:1. In James 1:1, he addresses the letter to "the 12 tribes scattered among the nations." He is speaking to all Christians, but in particular, those of Jewish heritage. It is thought that James was martyred in about 62 AD. The letter could have been written as early as in the 40's AD. It may have been one of the first New Testament writings.

There is much emphasis on Christian conduct in James. As you read, you will be reminded of the Old Testament book of Proverbs and the of Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. The emphasis on the Law seems extreme. There seems to be an assumption on James' part that the Gospel is understood by the reader and this ought to bear fruit in their lives. Read James as a child of God who longs to fulfill His wishes and you will be given many insights.

Favorite Verse from James:

Questions on James:

1. Chapter 1:5 – When James tells us to ask for wisdom, we are reminded of Solomon and his Proverbs. As you read, write out 5 short gems of wisdom from James.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

2. Chapters 1:9-11, 2:1-12 – James gives warnings to the poor and rich. What are some traps we are to avoid?

3. Chapters 1:22 – How could this one verse be an excellent credo for every Christian?

4. We know that eternal life is a gracious gift of God through faith alone in Jesus Christ. In 2:14-19 (especially 2:17) James makes a point about faith and works. Why is it so important for us to see the faith of others and for others to see our faith in action? What can happen when we don't put our faith in action?

5. Chapter 3:1-12 – To what things is the tongue compared? What point is James making?

6. Chapter 3:13-18 – List the positive aspects of Christian wisdom.

7. Chapters 4:7 - What are some ways we can “resist” the devil?

8. Chapter 4:15 - “If it is the Lord’s will.” Where else do we see this thought in the Bible?

9. Chapter 5:19-20 – How do these words help us in our reaching out to those who once were in close fellowship with the church?

Your questions on James...