

11/6/88

James 2

James continues to press on with the practical things of life lest we turn our backs and ignore the obvious and constant areas that we have to examine.

**2:1-13 Faith and partiality.**

**2:1**

It seems that James returns to the topic of the poor and rich.

- 1) Partiality or favoritism is something that God abhors, yet it is so prevalent among God's people.
- 2) Jesus was acknowledged as not favoring anyone, Lk. 20:21
- 3) Peter was told by Jesus regarding the gentile, Acts 12:34; Deut. 1:17; 10:17; Lev. 19:15; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25
- 4) Lord of glory - 1Cor. 2:8; Col. 1:27; Jn. 1:14; 17:5; Lk. 2:33; Heb. 1:3 deity

**2:2**

Assembly – synagogue.  
Fine apparel - bright clothing.

**2:3**

Man's treasure - Matt. 6:19-21; 1Tim. 6:10; 2Pet. 2:15; Jude

**2:4**

Guilty by:

- 1) Making a distinction.
- 2) Judged with evil thoughts, motives.  
-Lk. 21:1-4 widow with two mites.  
-1Sam. 16:7 God looks on the heart.

**2:5**

- 1) God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith.  
Lk. 1:52; 1Cor. 1:25-26  
-Lk. 4:18 preach gospel to the poor.  
-Luke's gospel is called "the gospel to the poor".  
-not all poor respond.

**2:6**

- 2) They had despised those God had honored.
- 3) The rich were oppressing them and taking them to court.  
-drag - violent word.  
-Paul and Silas at Philippi, Acts 16:19  
-Paul at Ephesus. Acts 21:30  
-Rich man and Lazarus. Lk. 16  
-Prov. 14:31  
-He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker (Amos 4)

**2:7**

4) The rich blasphemed the noble name of Jesus Christ.

-honorable - Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1Pet. 4:14, 16

-Used of a wife when she takes her husband's name or a child his father's.

### 2:8

1) Royal law - law of the Kingdom of God, love.

2) Love neighbor - Lev. 19:11; Jn. 13:34; Rom. 5:5;

Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:22

-Why is my neighbor? Lk. 10:28-37 Good Samaritan.

### 2:9

Convicted - (elegcho) rebuke that results in the person's confession of guilt or conviction of sin.

-Jn. 8:46 which of you convicts me of sin.

### 2:10

Law was intended to be obeyed in its entirety.

-if you fail in one you fail and are guilty regarding the spirit of the law, not that you've broken all.

### 2:11

Not all sins are the same in consequence or offense, but all make you guilty.

-Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount gave the proper spirit not simply the physical act.

### 2:12

1) Law of liberty - royal law of love (agape).

2) So speak and so do - present perfect, as a habit. Ja. 1:22-27

3) Idle word - Matt. 12:34-37

-motive - 1Cor. 4:5

### 2:13

Matt. 5:7; 6:14; 7:1; 18:22-35

Mercy

-freely you have received

-Rom. 8:31-39; Matt. 9:13; 12:7

### 2:14-26

### Faith and works

### 2:14

1) If someone says - professor not true possessor.

2) But the lack of works deny his profession of faith.

-Greek - keep on saying and keep on not having works.

-Question - Can this kind of faith save him?

NO!

### 2:15

Illustration of the most basic need, clothes and food.

-naked - ill clothes not naked literally

### **2:16**

Mere lip service is the fruit of profession!

Question - What profit or benefit does this bring?

- 1) To substantiate your faith.
- 2) To relieve the need.

### **2:17**

Conclusion is f aith without works is useless and dead f aith, not saving faith.

-if it keeps on not having works!

### **2:18**

Imaginary objection to the preceeding argument is that one may say, God has given me the gift of faith and you works to justify and rationalize his prof ession.

-James' rebuttal is based on solid evidence.

- 1) Verify your faith apart from works.
- 2) I will verify my faith by my works.

### **2:19**

Illustration of comparison.

- 1) You believe in one God. (Deut. 6:4 Shema)
- 2) Devils also believe but tremble (shudder).

-Their religion is that of devils, void of good works. Eph. 2:10

### **2:20**

vain man - empty headed.

Matt. 7:26 foolish man builds on sand, hearing but not doing.

### **2:21**

James first witness to faith and works.

1) Abraham - Father of faith to the Jews.

-Gen. 22 offered Isaac, 50-60 years after his faith in God

\* Heb. 11:17-20 believing God could raise him up.

### **2:22**

Evidence was that Abraham's faith was not a mere profession nor a gift apart from works but in fact demonstrated its genuineness.

### **2:23-24**

The work of offering Isaac was the fruit of the faith that verified the saving faith in Gen. 15:6 friend; 2Chron. 20:7; Is. 41:8

### **2:25**

Second witness to faith and works

2) Rahab – prostitute. Josh, 2:6; Matt. 1

\* she received b) she responded. Jn. 15:15;  
Tit. 3:8

**2:26**

Final conclusion

1) illustrated. vs. 26a

2) declared. vs. 26b