

Through the Bible Course

April 2, 1950

James

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Key Thought: Faith is dead without a manifestation in works.

Key Verse: 2:18

Date: Tradition fixes martyrdom of James about 62. So epistle must have been written before this. Indications are that it was written early, before Jewish Christians had made full transition to Christian thinking.

Author: James, the brother of the Lord.

To Whom Addressed: The Jewish Christians of the dispersion.

Purpose: To show mere profession of faith contrasted with faith which produces Christian life. Paul looked at salvation from God's viewpoint. James from man's viewpoint.

“The Manifestation of True Faith”

- I. Chapter 1:1-27 – By Trials and Obedience
 1. 1:2-4 – Trials produce character
 2. 1:5-12 – Wisdom to live comes by prayer of faith
 3. 1:13-18 – Temptations spring from sinful inclinations
 4. 1:19-27 – Faith is manifested by obedience, not hearing

- II. Chapter 2:1-26 – By Performance of Good Works
 1. 2:1-13 – Faith is manifested by not having respect to persons
 2. 2:14-26 – Shown by good works
 - a. verses 21-26 – Abraham as example – offering Isaac
 - b. verse 23 – Abraham believed

- III. Chapter 3:1-18 – By Control of Tongue and Showing Wisdom of God
 1. 3:1-12 – Control of tongue
 2. 3:13-18 – Wisdom of world contrasted with wisdom from above
 - a. envy, strive versus purity (verse 17)
 - b. fightings – self, home, neighborhood, duty, world

- IV. Chapter 4:1-17 – By Attitude Toward God and World
 1. 4:1-7 – By putting away worldly desires and submitting to God
 2. 4:8-12 – By humbly drawing near to God
 3. 4:13-17 – By recognizing sovereignty of God over our lives

- V. Chapter 5:1-11 – By Patience Under Injustice
 - 1. 5:1-6 – Mistreatment by rich
 - 2. 5:7-11 – Your patience will be rewarded

- VI. Chapter 5:12-30 – By Prayer and Personal Work
 - 1. 5:12-13 – Suffer affliction by prayer
 - 2. 5:14-15 – Pray for sick
 - 3. 5:16-18 – Power of prayer
 - 4. 5:19-20 – Blessedness of winning soul to Christ