

# James

## Preliminary Outline

### Introduction

#### Prepared By:

Ross Ward, 54<sup>th</sup> Ave Des Moines Church of Christ

#### Key Verse:

Jas 1:26-27, If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.<sup>27</sup> Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

#### Author:

James of Jerusalem, likely Jesus' half Brother

- ❖ Much debate about this and nothing is certain

#### Theme:

Pure and Genuine Religion (i.e. righteous living)

- ❖ Lessons in this letter very closely mimic Jesus teaching in the Gospels, especially pertaining to the Pharisees "fake" religion. The Religion of the Pharisees would have infiltrated into common Jews ideology (note Jesus' admonition in Mt 5:20) and therefore also early converts.

#### Audience:

Converted Jews

- ❖ Jas 1:1, twelve tribes scattered
- ❖ Jas 1:18, first fruits
- ❖ Jas 2:2, the word assembly is the Greek word that is used for synagogue. It is possible then that the first Christian converts met in synagogues. It is also possible they had their own synagogue and just borrowed the term from their Jewish heritage. Either way, this terminology points to an early Christian letter, maybe even the first.
  - It is worthy to note that through Acts, there are times that the Christian Jews were co-existing with the Jews (Acts 21:20-21) and other times there is great division shown. Teachers typically first taught in the synagogues, though eventually "cast out".

Gentile converts and Gentile issues are noticeably absent

- ❖ There are no references to Gentiles or the issues associated with their conversion and there were significant issues.

#### Date

Likely one of the first, if not the first written

- ❖ Pre-Acts 15
- ❖ There are no references to Gentiles or the issues associated with their conversion and there were significant issues.
  - Acts 15, what about circumcision and other Law of Moses practices?
  - Paul to the Galatians, same topic.

## Outline

- 1:1, Introduction, The Writer and Audience
- 1:2-18, Proper Attitude Toward Trials – Blessings
- 1:19-26, Proper Attitude Toward Teaching – Meekness
- 1:27, Proper Attitude Toward Destitute – Generous
- 2:1-13, Proper Attitude Toward the Poor – Respectful
- 2:14-26, Proper Attitude Toward Faith – Action
- 3:1-18, Proper Attitude Toward Knowledge – Wisdom’s Meekness
- 4:1-12, Condemnation of Waring Among Christians
- 4:13-17, Condemnation of Boasting
- 5:1-6, Condemnation of the Rich (Likely Non-Christian Jew)
- 5:7-11, Be Steadfast in Face of “These” Trials
- 5:12, Be Honest In Your Speech
- 5:13-20, Help One Another

## Expanded Outline

### 1:1, Introduction, The Writer and Audience

#### 1:2-18, Proper Attitude Toward Trials – Blessings

- ❖ 1:2-4, God Gives Knowledge of Trials
- ❖ 1:5-8, God Gives Wisdom to Navigate Trials
- ❖ 1:9-11, God's Blessing of Humility
- ❖ 1:12-15, God does not Tempt Man to Sin
  - Vs. 12, Blessed
  - Vs. 13, Proper Blame
  - Vs. 14-15, Source of Temptation – Man's Lust
- ❖ 1:16-18, God Gives Even Greater Blessings

#### 1:19-26, Proper Attitude Toward Teaching – Meekness

- ❖ (Listens, Receives, Does, and Controls Speech)
- ❖ 1:19-20, Wise – Listens and is Slow to Speak and Slow to Wrath
  - 1:20, Wrath of Man Does Not Fulfill the Righteousness of God
- ❖ 1:21, Wise – Receives the Word with Meekness
- ❖ 1:22-25, Wise – Are Doers (Hearers Only are Deceived)
  - 1:23-25, Example of The Man in The Mirror
- ❖ 1:26, Wise – Bridles Tongue (Unbridled Tongue is Deceived)

#### 1:27, Proper Attitude Toward Destitute – Generous

- ❖ 1:27, Care for the Destitute
- ❖ 1:27, Remain Purified

#### 2:1-13, Proper Attitude Toward the Poor – Respectful

- ❖ 2:1-4, Their Prejudice
  - Vs. 1, Do not be Prejudice
  - Vs. 2-4, They Ministered to the Rich (Jew Who Oppressed them)
- ❖ 2:5-6a, God chose the Poor
- ❖ 2:6b-7, Oppression of the Rich (Jew)
- ❖ 2:8-11, Seriousness of Prejudice
- ❖ 2:12-13, God Prefers Mercy

#### 2:14-26, Proper Attitude Toward Faith – Action

- ❖ 2:14, Importance of Listening and Doing
- ❖ 2:15-16, Illustration – Caring for the Destitute
- ❖ 2:17-18, Illustration – Faith Absent of Works
- ❖ 2:19-20, Example – Demons
- ❖ 2:21-24, Example – Abraham
- ❖ 2:25, Example – Rahab
- ❖ 2:26, Illustration – Body Absent Spirit

### 3:1-18, Proper Attitude Toward Knowledge – Wisdom’s Meekness

- ❖ 3:1-2, Warning for Desire to be Schoolmasters
- ❖ 3:3-18, True Wisdom
  - 3:3-12, The Controlled Tongue
    - Vs. 3, Power of a Bit
    - Vs. 4, Power of a Rudder
    - Vs. 5a, Power of the Tongue
    - Vs. 5b, Power of a Fire
    - Vs. 6, Destruction of the Tongue
    - Vs. 7-8, Tongue untamable
    - Vs. 9-12, Inconsistency of the Tongue
  - 3:13-18, Heart of the Matter
    - Vs. 13, Wisdom’s Meekness
    - Vs. 14-16, Carnal Wisdom – Sows Discord
    - Vs. 17-18, Godly Wisdom – Sows Peace

### 4:1-12, Condemnation of Waring Among Christians

- ❖ 4:1-5, Problems Rooted in Their Desire for Power
  - Vs. 1-3, Their Condition – Waring and Fighting
  - Vs. 4-5, Condemned – Enemies of God
- ❖ 4:6-10, Solution – God Gives Grace To The Humble
  - Vs. 6, God’s Ever-Increasing Grace to the Humble
  - Vs. 7-8a, Actions Toward God
  - Vs. 8b-9, Action To Themselves
  - Vs. 10, Humble Yourself to God
- ❖ 4:11-12, Problem of Judging

### 4:13-17, Condemnation of Boasting

- ❖ Vs. 13-14, Evidence of their problem
- ❖ Vs. 15, Solution to their problem
- ❖ Vs. 16, Their Problem Condemned
- ❖ Vs. 17, Be a Doer

### 5:1-6, Condemnation of the Rich (Likely Non-Christian Jew)

- ❖ 5:1-3, Corruption of their Wealth
- ❖ 5:4-6, Abuses of the Rich
  - Vs. 4, Injustice
  - Vs. 5, Luxury
  - Vs. 6, Oppressive

### 5:7-11, Be Steadfast in Face of “These” Trials

- ❖ Vs. 7-9, Persevere
- ❖ Vs. 10-11, Example of Prophets and Job

### 5:12, Be Honest In Your Speech

### 5:13-20, Help One Another