

Intro to James
Gracepointe Church
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James 1:1–4

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Prayer

I have always said there is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. You can have knowledge without wisdom but you cannot have wisdom without knowledge.

--This relationship is a necessary tension we witness throughout the whole of scriptures.

James has often been called the Proverbs of the NT

Martin Luther called the Book an epistle of straw because he felt it taught a work salvation
But I would argue that he isn't teaching a work salvation

In fact he reiterates the writings of Jesus that calls us to to put our hands to the Plow
Or Paul calling us to judge legitimacy of salvation by the fruits

Intro To James

James 1:1–4

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

The first verse opens who wrote the Book and to Whom

My dad would often talk about how we need a gps when it comes to our finaciess... We must know where we are coming from and have direction for where we are going...

When studying the Bible, in order to properly understand things we must have a grasp of the who and the whom

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Author claims to be james, now there are a few James in the Scriptural account but almost all of history accounts James the half- brother of Jesus as the Author

James a Doulos of God = A Bond Servant

How did James become a bond servant of His Brother?

--He didn't believe in His brother when he was living!

John 7:3–5

3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.

4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."

5 For not even his brothers believed in him.

What Happened? Jesus mercifully appeared to him.

1 Corinthians 15:7

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

James would go on to be in prayer in the upper room at Pentecost...

We know that He becomes the Lead Elder in Jerusalem from the Book of Acts.

James was a man who found GRACE from God...

Foxes book of Martyrs tells us that He died praying for his persecutors, Father forgive them, they know not what they do.

To Whom is He writing

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Diaspora = Dispersion

This is a common title for the Jews

Matthew 19:28

28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

By the writing of this text the Old Sacrificial system hasn't come to an end.

James was a bit of a Legalist, He encouraged Paul to go through Jewish ritualism to pacify the Stricter Jews Acts 21

Non the less Paul spoke about him as a Pillar:

Galatians 2:9

9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

To Whom was James writing to the Jewish Christians, but to all who believe as well. It is a greek text... Helnist... Broader Christian base.

What is the Theme? Christian Maturity

Count It All Joy

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
Who ever said the Christian Life would be easy?

We MUST enter the Kingdom through Tribulation

Acts 14:22

22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus SAID they would hate us!

The Fallen nature of the world brings trials
The Advisory is shooting his firey darts..

The mayhem in our lives is not our neighbor, or our government... Though these can be used. It is Spiritual

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Christ has WON the spiritual battle

We have won:

Hebrews 12:2

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

SO we:

1 Thessalonians 5:16

16 Rejoice always,

We MUST COUNT it all joy.

Must Know

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

We from the scriptures KNOW testing of our faith is of God, and He loves us

It prepares us for Glory

2 Corinthians 4:17

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

It Builds up Hope

Romans 5:3–5

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

It Conforms me to the Image of God

Romans 8:28–29

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

IT MAKES YOU STEADFAST

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Let it Happen, Be Malleable

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

We know that when God does a sanctifying work on us the outcome is being confirmed in His image

Count it Joy

You Know

Let Steadfast have its FULL effect

that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James is wanting you to abound in your faith.

JAMES 1:2-4