

James - Introduction

Wed. 11/18/2020

Who - Lord's 'brother' - **Mt 13:55** married - **1 Cor 9:5 & 15:7** (post-res. visit)
leader - **Acts 12:17 & 15:12-21 & 21:18-19 Gal 2:9-10** (pillar)
James death - *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, p 10-11

What - It's the first written Book of the New testament (~ 45 AD).
It deals with *practical matters*, not doctrinal.
It shows how faith *behaves*, not what faith *believes*.

Rightly divide **James** from **Paul**, both speak of *faith* and *works*, from different points.

Paul focuses on the doctrinal truth that *faith* is the root of salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Titus 3:5 (nb - Paul did write about works)

James emphasizes that *works* are the fruit of salvation.

"Faith is the *cause* of salvation, works are the *result* of salvation." (J. Vernon McGee)

Paul is speaking of *the works of the law* ; James - *works of the spirit*.

to Whom - **hx**: Early 1st century Jewish believers **James 1:1-2, Acts 8:1 & 11:19**
spir: All believers in the Church age [note v 2]
doct: Believing Jews and Gentiles in the tribulation "

Why - The scattered brethren were struggling in their growth.
They were experiencing pressure from without and problems within.
So James writes an epistle to help them grow, **1 Peter 2:2**.

James Theme - Christian Maturity

OUTLINE

ch 1	Maturity & suffering	James 1:3
ch 2	Maturity & service	James 2:8
ch 3	Maturity & speech	James 3:2
ch 4	Maturity & separation	James 4:4
ch 5	Maturity & the second coming	James 5:7

James is a wisdom book in the New Testament, like Proverbs.
It deals with the practical aspects of the faith, like *Sermon on the Mount*.

James writes that a man who has been *justified by faith* will evidence *works*.
God may see the heart, but our neighbors only see our works.

reference : *Thru The Bible*, vol 5 ; J. Vernon McGee, 1983, Thomas Nelson Publ.

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