

James, to the Twelve Tribes

Text: James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings. (James 1:1)

Intro - The situation

Persecution

I. James the man

Not one of the twelve

Brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3; Galatians 1:19)

Jesus is *the Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:7)

Gentile inclusion

The mission of James was evidently to stand in the breach between the synagogue and the church, and to lead the disciples of Moses gently to Christ. He was the only man that could do it in that critical time of the approaching judgment of the holy city. As long as there was any hope of a conversion of the Jews as a nation, he prayed for it and made the transition as easy as possible. When that hope vanished his mission was fulfilled. --Schaff

II. The letter

The emphasis

What's missing: why?

III. The significance for the first Christians

James 1:10

James 1:19

James 1:27

James 4

Application 1: Preparatory Week

Spending a week with James

Our character & our behavior

Question 81: *Who should come to the Lord's table?*

Answer: Those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins...

Application 2: A Godly Sorrow

Question 81: *Who should come to the Lord's table?*

Answer: ...but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life. Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however, eat and drink judgment on themselves.