

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have faith without showing partiality (favoritism, discrimination, etc.):
 - a. This is the testimony that reflects Jesus Christ... "For God so loved the world..."
 - b. This is what Christians are commanded to do. (Verses 1 – 13)
2. Faith must be in company with (together with) works. (Verses 14 – 26)

I. James illustrates showing "respect of persons," and warns against showing respect of persons (discrimination). This is a hypothetical story: vs. 1-4

- A. This is an example of respecting a rich man and not respecting a poor man.
 1. The rich man wears fine clothes and a gold ring.
 2. The poor man has poor, worn, old clothes – nothing fine or fancy.
- B. If we prefer the rich man and not the poor man, we show respect or partiality. This means we have taken the place of a judge who shows partiality and discrimination. This is not our place. God is the Judge. God looks on the heart.

II. Respect of persons is rooted (founded in/based in) sin: vs. 5-9

- A. God chooses those who are rich in faith (not those who wear rich clothes).
- B. Rich people will take you to court and accuse you quickly – oftentimes, for your faith.
- C. If we show respect of persons we transgress (go against) the law.

III. Failing to show mercy brings judgment without mercy: vs. 10-13

- A. If we disobey the law in one place, we have disobeyed (or broken) the law.
- B. Christians are judged by the law of liberty. Jesus Christ paid for our sin. He has made us free. He has given us liberty from the penalty of breaking the law.
Ephesians 2:8, 9
8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- C. We should not use our liberty as a cloke (or cover) for maliciousness (the deliberate desire to hurt others). Discrimination hurts other people.

IV. Are you truly saved-finished if your works don't show your faith? Example: vs. 14-18

- A. A poor person comes by. He/she has no clothes and no food.
- B. You say, "Depart in peace. Be warm; be filled." But, you do not help
- C. If you don't try to help, where is your faith? You show your faith when you try to help.

V. Dead faith produces nothing. Christians are to bring forth fruit. Look at the example of Abraham: vs. 19-26

- A. Abraham had faith to offer his only son Isaac in obedience to God's request.
- B. God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac. We see Abraham's faith in his offer to obey.
- C. Rahab sent the spies out another way:
 1. She showed her faith. She believed God.
 2. You can see Rahab's faith by her actions in Joshua 2:15, 16