

JAMES

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

-
- A. One of the most practical books of the N.T. It is easy to read, but difficult to obey.
 - B. AUTHOR:
 - 1. There are three persons in N.T. called James.
 - a. James the son of Zebedee, one of the twelve and brother of John.
 - b. James the son of Alphaous, also one of the twelve.
 - c. James the brother of the Lord (Matt. 13:55) but not one of the twelve.
 - 2. It is generally conceded that the author was the brother of the Lord.
 - C. PURPOSE:
 - 1. If Christianity meant anything, it meant everything.
 - 2. If any man among you seem to be religious (1:26)
 - 3. It is not approval before men, but one's approval before God that counts.
-

ABOUT THE BOOK

-
- A. Man has called:
 - 1. John the apostle of love.
 - 2. Paul the apostle of faith.
 - 3. Peter the apostle of hope.
 - 4. And James the apostle of good works.
 - B. There is no mention of the incarnation or the resurrection, the two fundamental facts of the Christian faith.
 - 1. The word "gospel" does not occur in the epistle. There is no suggestion that the Messiah has appeared and no presentation of the possibility of redemption through Him.
 - 2. The teaching throughout is that of lofty morality.
 - C. It preaches a gospel of good works, based upon love to God and love to man.
 - D. He is not discussing things in general...but things in particular.
 - 1. There are those who talk holiness and are hypocrites;
 - 2. Those who make profession of perfect love and yet cannot live peaceable with their brethren;
 - 3. Those who are full of pious phraseology but fail in practical philanthropy.
 - E. This epistle was written for them.
 - 1. It may not give them much comfort, but it ought to give them much profit!
 - 2. All who are long on theory and short on practice ought to steep themselves in the spirit of James.
-

JAMES

Page 2

If any man among you seem to be religious.....

BE TESTED AND TRIED

- A. IF ANY MAN AMONG YOU SEEM TO BE RELIGIOUS, LET THAT MAN'S RELIGION BE TESTED AND TRIED.
1. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations."
 2. Could a joyful note be found in the coming of such trying ordeals?
 3. "*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*"
 4. As Jesus did. Joy that was set before him not in what he suffered but in what it accomplished.
- B. IN EVERY TEMPTATION THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY....
1. To resist evil, and put Satan to flight.
 2. To fight a good fight of faith.
 3. To prove that worthwhile things are not obtained without price.
 4. To reveal what manner of person we are.
 5. To show where our loyalty lies.
 6. To create courage and develop determination.
 7. To call upon God for help, and build strength.
 8. To score a victory for Christ!
-

Have Something To Show

- A. IF ANY MAN AMONG YOU SEEM TO BE RELIGIOUS, LET THAT MAN HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR HIS FAITH.
1. Can you see that which is locked up within a man's heart? Not unless it manifests itself through some gesture or deed.
 2. It is not a work that causes faith, but a work that results from faith. He did not mean that the work would result in faith, but he did mean that the faith would result in work.
 3. Note: James did not inquire "What doth it profit if a man hath faith, and have not works," but rather...."What doth it profit if a man **SAY** he hath faith, and have not works?"
- B. TEST YOUR FAITH BY JAMES CHAPTER TWO:
1. Does your faith bring glory to God, and good to man (v.1)
 2. Does your faith show respect of persons, or respect for persons.
 3. Someone wrote: "Faith without works God never regards;
"Works without faith God never rewards."
-

JAMES

Page 3

BODY BE HARNESSSED

- A. IF ANY MAN AMONG YOU SEEM TO BE RELIGIOUS, LET THAT MAN'S WHOLE BODY BE HARNESSSED FOR GOD'S USE.
1. James informs us that no matter how righteous a man may appear to be, his religion is vain unless he can bridle his tongue (1:26).
 2. The tongue is a very small member of the body, but a most important member. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21).
 3. James tells us that if we can bridle the tongue, we can harness the whole body. (Bits in horses mouth; rudder of ship, etc).
- B. SOME PEOPLE use language to express thought, some to conceal thought, and some instead of thought!
1. Gossip has been defined as "the art of saying nothing, and leaving nothing unsaid."
 2. The best way therefore, *to save face is to keep the lower part of it closed*
-

GUIDANCE FROM ABOVE

- A. IF ANY MAN AMONG YOU SEEM TO BE RELIGIOUS, LET THAT MAN BE GUIDED FROM ABOVE.
1. If a man seems to be religious, see if he is a wise man. (3:13).
 2. If bitterness and strife are within a man, how could he be guided from above. (3:14-16).
- B. This heavenly wisdom is defined as being "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (3:17).
-

Go As Far As He Can.....

- A. IF ANY MAN AMONG YOU SEEM TO BE RELIGIOUS, LET HIM GO AS FAR AS HE CAN, AND LEAVE THE REST WITH GOD.
1. "Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). "
 2. Without the Lord we could do nothing (Jno. 15:5).
- B. Remember, "*the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*"(5:16-18)
1. As an example, we have the prayers of a righteous Elijah.
 2. Such prayer will avail much more than we can imagine.
- C. Don't lose interest in the souls of men (5:19,20). Remember, the soul you save might be your own; or the soul you lose in not trying to save another might be your own!
-

Santo