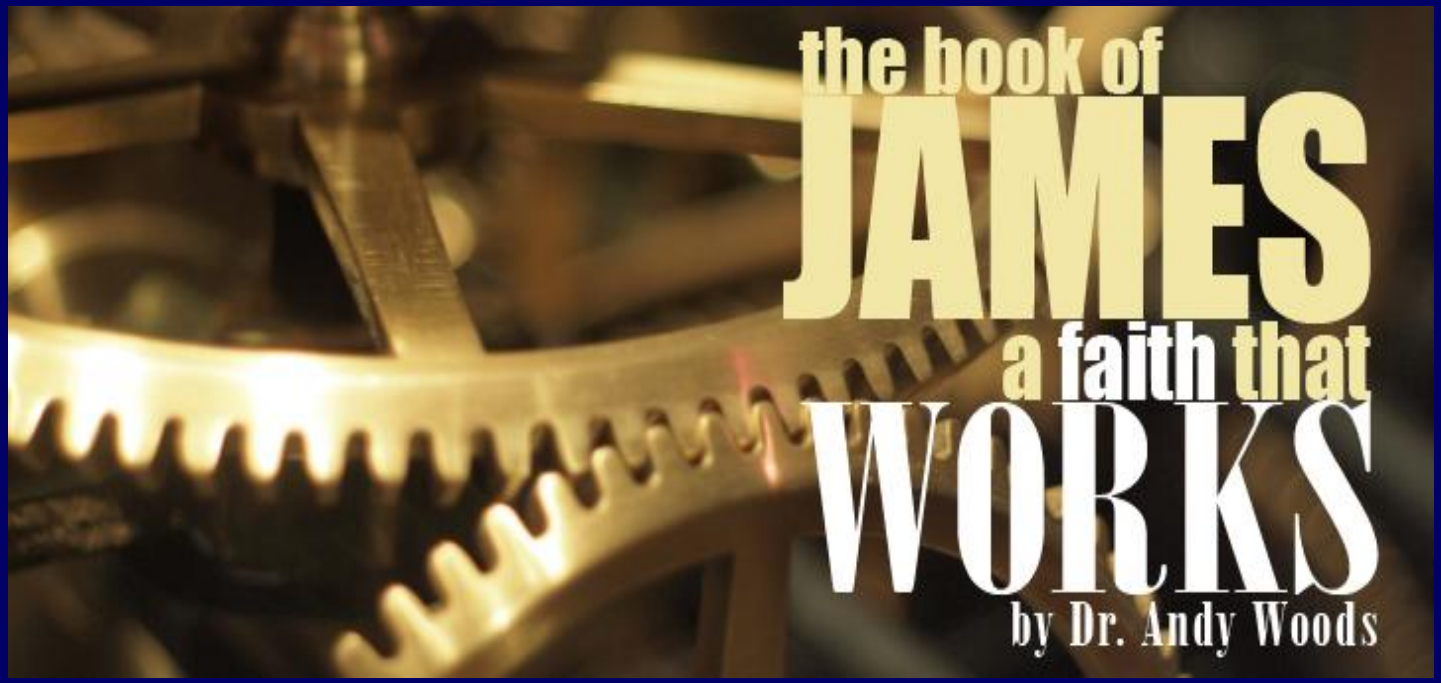
PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS





Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Answering Eleven Questions



1) Who wrote it? – **James**
2) What do we know about the author? – **Christ's ½ Brother**
3) Who was the audience? – **Believing Jews in the Diaspora**
4) Where was if written from? – **Jerusalem**
5) When was the book written? – **A.D. 44–47**
6) What was the book's occasion? – **Practical righteousness**
7) What is the book's purpose? – **Achieving practical righteousness**
8) What is the book about? – **Practical righteousness**
9) What is the book's theme? – **Daily living**
10) What makes the book different? – **Practicality**
11) How is the book organized? – **Faith and Wisdom**

JAMES STRUCTURE

I. Faith (James 1:1–3:12)

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



JAMES STRUCTURE

I. **Faith (James 1:1–3:12)**

II. Wisdom (James 3:13–5:20)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - Favoritism (2:1-13)
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- **Faith (1:1–3:12)**
  - **<u>Trials (1:2-18)</u>**
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - Favoritism (2:1-13)
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



James 1:2-18

- Trials – Jas 1:2-18
  - Rejoicing during trials – Jas 1:2-12
  - Command not to charge God with temptation – Jas 1:13-18



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - **Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)**
  - Favoritism (2:1-13)
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



Faith Obeys God

(James 1:19-27)

I. Need for Slowness in Speaking & Anger (1:19-20)

II. Need for Obedience to God's Word (1:21-25)

III. Need for True Religion (1:26-27)



JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - **Favoritism (2:1-13)**
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. **Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)**



III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. God elects all (2:5)

C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)



D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. **We judge where God has not (4)**



B. God elects all (2:5)

C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)

D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”



III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. **<u>God elects all (2:5)</u>**



C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)

D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. God elects all (2:5)

C. **Rich oppressors (2:6-7)**



D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

C. Rich God Haters

(Jas 2:6-7)

1. Oppressors (6)

2. Blasphemers (7)



III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. God elects all (2:5)

C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)



D. **<u>Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)</u>**

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)


Mediterranean Sea
CANAAN
Gaza
Dead Sea
Beersheba
Arad
Way to the Land of the Philistines
Migdol
WILDERNESS OF ZIN
Rameses
EGYPT
Tahpanhes
Pithom?
GOSHEN
Succoth?
WILDERNESS OF SHUR
Kadesh-barnea
Punon
WILDERNESS OF PARAN
On
Memphis
Marah?
Timna
Elath
SINAI
Jotbathah?
Ezion-geber?
Nile River
Elim?
Red Sea
Dophkah?
WILDERNESS OF SIN
Hazeroth?
MIDIAN
Red Sea
Rephidim?
Mount Sinai? (Jebel Musa)
0
50
100 mi
0
50
100
150 km

Psalm 147:19-20

"He declares His words **to Jacob**, His statutes and His ordinances **to Israel**. He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!"



SIMILARITIES WITH ACTS 15

	James	Acts 15
Greetings	1:1	15:23
Visit	1:27	15:14
Listen	2:5	15:13
Turn	5:19-20	15:19
Being called by God's name	2:7	15:17

Date
(AD 44-47)

- AD 70
- AD 62-63
- AD 49
- AD 48-49
- Sermon on the Mount



- Primitive congregational worship (Jas 2:2; 3:1; 5:14)
- Jas 1:1 = Acts 8:1-4; 11:19

Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



2 Timothy 3:16-17

"**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; [17] so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."



Romans 15:3-4

“For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is **written**: “The taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on Me.” **For whatever was written in earlier times** was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the **encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have hope.”





Thomas Constable

"Notes on James," 48, accessed December 1, 2020, http://www.soniclight.com.

"Christians live under a new set of rules, the **law of liberty**. Israelites lived under a different set of rules, the **Law of Moses**. The fact that the 'golden rule' was part of both the **Mosaic Law** and the **law of Christ**, does not mean that we are still under the Mosaic Law."

III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. God elects all (2:5)

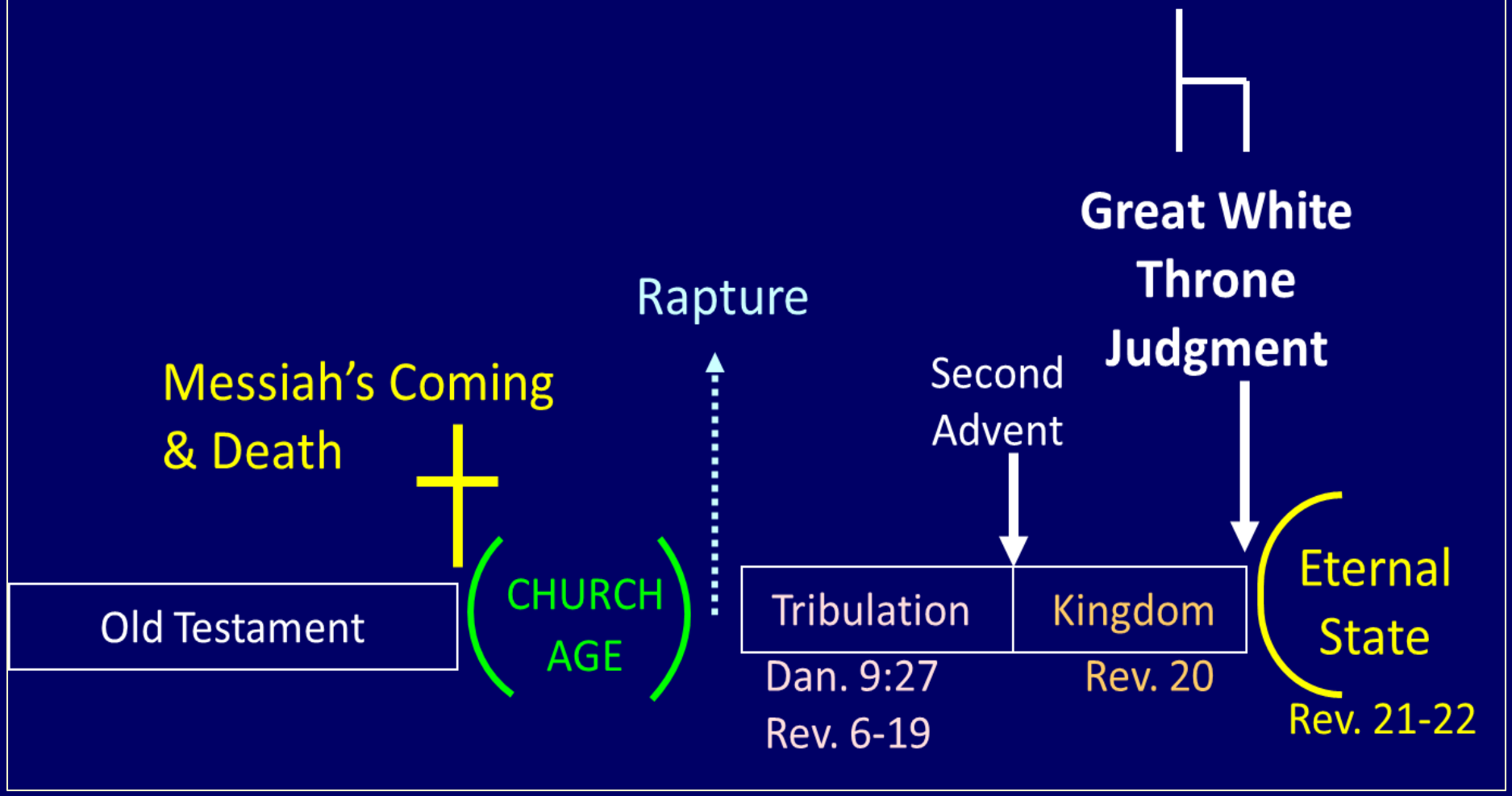
C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)



D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. **<u>God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)</u>**

Prophecy Panorama

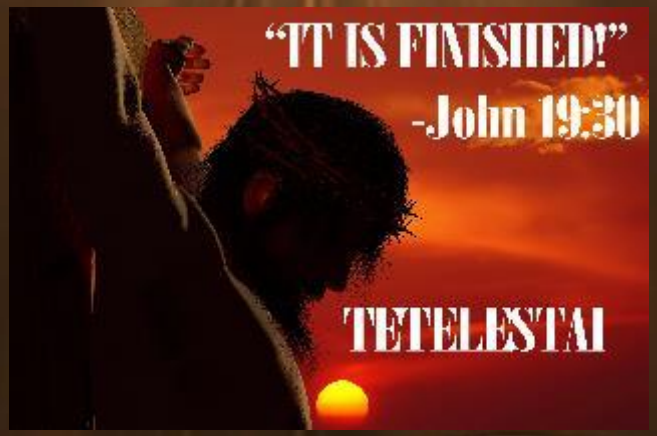


Scripture's Four Judgments

Name	Sheep and Goat	Judgment of the Jews	Bema Seat	Great White Throne
Scripture	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	1 Cor 3:10-15	Rev 20:11-15
Place	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	Heaven	Earth
Audience	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	Church Age believers	All unsaved
When	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After rapture	After Millennium
Purpose	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	Reward believers	Degree of punishment in hell
Evaluation	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	Works taken through fire	Not in the book; judged by books

John 19:30

"Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, '**<u>It is finished</u>**!' And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."



John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes Him** who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has passed out** of death into life."



Why?

- **Not** to judge sin (John 19:30)
- **Not** to determine salvation (John 5:24)
- **But** rather to give or not give rewards



Scripture's Five Crowns
(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

Scripture	Crown	Purpose
1 Cor. 9:24-27	**Incorruptible**	**Gaining mastery over the flesh**
1 Thess. 2:19-20	**Rejoicing**	**Soul winning**
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	**Life**	**Enduring trials**
1 Pet. 5:2-4	**Glory**	**Shepherding God's people**
2 Tim. 4:8	**Righteousness**	**Longing for His appearing**



Donald. W. Burdick

"Since he is speaking to believers, the judgment to which he refers must be the judgment of believers at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)."

Hebrews-Revelation. Vol. 12 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. 12 vols. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelein and J. D. Douglas. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981, p. 180.

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each one** may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."



Romans 14:10, 12

"[10]…For we will **all stand before the judgment seat of God**…[12] So then **each one** of us will give an account of himself to God."



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

“10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw…”



1 Corinthians 3:14-15

“14 If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“[24] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. [25] Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; [27] but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”



1 John 2:28

“[28] Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.”



1 Corinthians 4:5

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and **disclose the motives of men's hearts**; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."





Samuel Hoyt

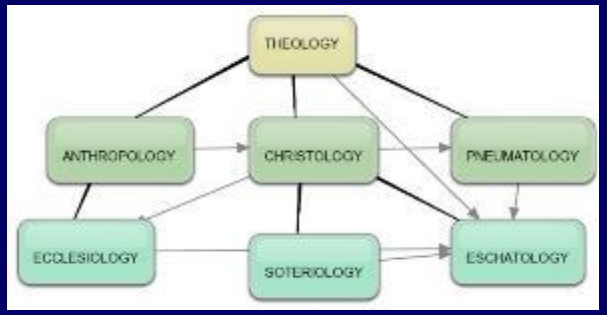
"The Judgment Seat of Christ in Theological Perspective,"
Part 2, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, electronic media.

"The judgment seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. **To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To under do the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential**" (underlining mine).

Areas of Systematic Theology



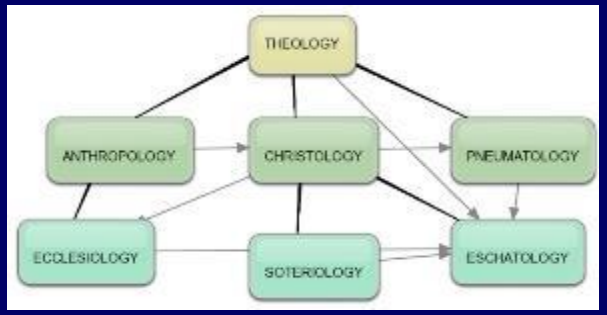
1. Prolegomena – Introduction
2. Bibliology – Study of the Bible
3. Theology – Study of God
4. Christology – Study of Christ
5. Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
6. Anthropology – Study of Man
7. Hamartiology – Study of sin
8. Soteriology – Study of salvation
9. Angelology – Study of angels
10. Ecclesiology – Study of the Church
11. Eschatology – Study of the end



Areas of Systematic Theology



1. Prolegomena – Introduction
2. **Bibliology – Study of the Bible**
3. Theology – Study of God
4. Christology – Study of Christ
5. Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
6. Anthropology – Study of Man
7. Hamartiology – Study of sin
8. Soteriology – Study of salvation
9. Angelology – Study of angels
10. Ecclesiology – Study of the Church
11. Eschatology – Study of the end



CONCLUSION

JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - **Favoritism (2:1-13)**
  - Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



Favoritism
(2:1-13)

I. Command: no favoritism (2:1)

II. Situation: favoritism in the assembly (2:2-3)

III. Reasoning: favoritism is contrary to God's character & purposes (2:4-13)



III. Reasoning: Favoritism is Contrary to God's Character & Purposes (2:4-13)

A. We judge where God has not (4)

B. God elects all (2:5)

C. Rich oppressors (2:6-7)



D. Favoritism violates God's Law (2:8-11)

E. God will judge those showing favoritism (2:12-13)

JAMES STRUCTURE

- Faith (1:1–3:12)
  - Trials (1:2-18)
  - Obedience to the Word (1:19-27)
  - Favoritism (2:1-13)
  - **Faith manifesting works (2:14-26)**
  - Tongue (3:1-12)



Faith Manifesting Works
(2:14-26)

- Thesis: works accompany useful faith (2:14)
- Five illustrations (2:15-26)
  - Needy brother (2:15-17)
  - Demonic monotheist (2:18-19)
  - Abraham (2:20-24)
  - Rahab (2:25)
  - Lifeless corpse (2:26)



Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10
Nature	Single	Dual	Single

Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10
Nature	Single	Dual	Single

Harmony Between Paul and James

	PAUL	JAMES
Phase of Salvation	Justification	Sanctification
Tense of Salvation	First tense	Second tense
Issue	Self righteous Judaism	Dead orthodoxy
Genesis	Gen 15:6	Gen 22

Harmony Between Paul and James

	PAUL	JAMES
Justification	Declaration of innocence before God	Evidence of the usefulness believer's faith before man
Save	Justification	Sanctification
Faith	Saving faith	Serving faith
Works	Favor with God	Believer's moral deeds



Lewis Sperry Chafer

Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), vol. 7, 148.

"In its larger usage, the word faith represents at least four varied ideas: (1) As above, it can be personal confidence in God. This the most common aspect of faith may be subdivided into three features: (a) **Saving faith**, which is the inwrought confidence in God's promises and provisions respecting the Savior that leads one to elect to repose upon and trust in the One who alone can save. (b) **Serving faith**, which contemplates as true the fact of divinely bestowed gifts and all details respecting divine appointments for service. This faith is always a personal matter, and so one believer should not become a pattern for another. That such faith with its personal characteristic may be kept inviolate, …



Lewis Sperry Chafer

Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), vol. 7, 148.

"…the Apostle writes: "Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God" (Rom. 14:22). Great injury may be wrought if one Christian imitates another in matters of appointment for service. (c) **Sanctifying or sustaining faith**, which lays hold of the power of God for one's daily life. It is the life lived in dependence upon God, working upon a new life-principle (Rom. 6:4). **The justified one, having become what he is by faith, must go ahead living on the same principle of utter dependence upon God**."

Romans 12:3-8

“3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of **faith**. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”



Romans 12:3-8

“6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his **faith**; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

