

# James 2

Jesus

## Chapter 1

- **Trials** Greet them as pure joy. God allowed it for your good
- **Faith** Knowing God will intervene in trial for your good
- **Patience** **1)** Produces endurance **2)** Makes us whole/mature
- **Connection** Our love for Jesus and Enduring trials
- **True Faith** True saving faith is **shown through action**

## I. Favoritism

1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, **with partiality.**

- **Context:** Church Gathering...

### **My brothers and sisters...**

Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ **must not show favoritism**

**Colossians 3:10** [True Believers] ... have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

**Romans 10:12** [Now] ... there is **no distinction** between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is **rich to all** who call upon Him.

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

- Male/Female/Black/White/Rich/Poor...No distinction/**all one in Christ**

Yet James sees blatant favoritism in the Church...

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine [lit. bright] apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy [lit. vile] clothes, 3 and **you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes** and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"

- Do not differentiate by appearance

**1 Samuel 16:7** [Lord to Samuel] "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature...For the Lord **does not see as man sees**; for man looks at the outward appearance, **but the Lord looks at the heart.**"

- **Legacy of CC:** Chuck S washing hippies' feet

4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and **become judges with evil thoughts?** 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not **chosen the poor** of this world to be **rich in faith** and **heirs of the kingdom** which

## He promised to those who love Him?

**God chooses the Rich/Poor and Everyone in Between  
God is rich to all who call on Him**

**Job 34:19 [God] is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands.**

- **Chosen the poor?** More apt to know need/call on Him

**Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit... For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Can the rich be saved?
- **Abraham:** Richest man in the world and still a friend of God

**Hebrews 11:9** By faith [Abraham] dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- Paul learned how to stay close to Jesus even when rich

**Philippians 4:12** ... I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

- **Choice:** Can't serve God and Riches/You can only love one

**Matthew 19:20** [Jesus: Keep the commandments] The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that **it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.** <sup>24</sup> And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>25</sup> When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

- **Wise Instructions** to Born-again rich guys...

**1 Timothy 6:18** Let them do good that they be rich in good works ready to give willing to share...

**No distinction in God's Economy...All one in Christ**

**Romans 2:11** For there is **no partiality** with God.

**James:** You have become Judges with Evil Thoughts

Why do you seat the rich guy in the recliner and the poor guy on the floor?

- **Evil thoughts...**
  1. This guy will tithe more?
  2. We will be known as the prestigious church?
  3. Did you hear so/so is coming to OUR church?

- **CRT: Christ's Reality Test**

**Newsflash:** All black people are sinners. All white people are sinners. All rich people are sinners. All poor people are sinners. All stand level at the foot of a bloody cross. [NJC]

**John 3:16** For God **so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

6 But you have **dishonored the poor man**. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not **blaspheme that noble name** by which you are called?

- You oppress the poor yet...
  1. **It is the rich** ...that oppress My people
  2. **It is the rich** ...that blaspheme My Name

**Acts 13:50** [Rich threw Paul out of Antioch] ...the Jews stirred up the **devout and prominent women** and the **chief men** of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them...

**So, why are you catering to the rich?**

8 If you really fulfill the **royal law** according to the Scripture, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself,**" you do well; 9 but if you show partiality [lit. Receive the face], you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- **Favoritism Breaks the Royal Law:** Love you neighbor as you love you
- **Favoritism Breaks the Written Law...**

**Leviticus 19:15** ... You shall not be **partial to the poor, nor honor** the person of the **mighty**. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

- **Favoritism w/in the church:** Divisive/destructive. Sin.
- **For us...**
  1. **No Rich Saint** w/name on plaque/pew because of giving
  2. **No Big Tither** influencing ANY message in ANY way
  3. **No Royal Family/No King/Queen** of the Church

There is only one King. Lord of Glory. King of Kings. Jesus Christ

- **Church Response to James:** Not so bad if playing favorites is our only sin?

10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

- **Only Two Ways to Heaven**
  1. **Salvation by Grace:** Free Gift of Jesus dying for our sins

2. **Salvation by Works:** Keep Law of God. All law/all time/not exceptions

Those who try to keep the written law unto Salvation are cursed by God

**Deuteronomy 27:26** Cursed is the one who does not confirm [keep] all the words of this law by observing them.

**Galatians 3:10** ...as many as are of the works of the law are **under the curse**; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in **all things** which are written in the book of the law, **to do them.**"

**Written Law like a chain:** One link breaks/Entire chain broken

11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law [Entire Law v 10].12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the **law of liberty**. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- **Convicted of Favoritism**                      Guilty of the entire law
- **Covered by God's Grace**                      Undeserved Kindness

1. Bear the fruit of Repentance. **How?**
2. Go show His grace to others

**God desires to show us Mercy...Not giving us Judgment we deserve**

- **Judged by Law of Liberty:** Did we love others as we love self/as God loved us?
- **Reciprocate:** Shown forgiveness? Show forgiveness. Shown mercy? Show mercy.

**Matthew 7:2** Judge [lit. condemn] not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, For **they shall obtain mercy.**

**Yet...**Judgment will be w/out mercy for those who do not show mercy to others

**Matthew 18:32** [Servant forgiven huge debt refuse to forgive brother a few bucks] Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, **'You wicked servant!** I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

- **James:** Saved by Grace? Prove it by your actions toward others

**SUMMARY Favoritism**

## **II. Faith W/out Works is not Saving Faith**

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and

destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

We are saved by grace through faith and **not works...**  
True Saving faith is exemplified in **good works**

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Note:** James is not refuting Paul as James Epistle was written before Paul's. Later in Acts 15 James agreed with Paul's stance on...

Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone

▪ **James distinguishes between...**

1. Believing in a God      Nothing. Not Salvation. V14 Can [that] faith save him. A. No
2. Believing God          Saving Faith is demonstrated in loving others

**Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It is true we are saved by faith not works...Yet  
**True Saving Faith Works:** Tangible Creative displays of grace to others

**Matthew 25:35** for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in... **40** And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

▪ **Saving Faith? Prove it...**

**1 Thessalonians 1:3** [I remember...] your **work of faith, labor of love,** and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father...

**Hebrews 6:10** ... God is not unjust to forget your **work and labor of love** which you have shown toward His name, in that you have **ministered to the saints,** and do minister.

**Titus 3:8** [Paul: Don't abuse Grace] This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to **affirm constantly,** that those who have **believed in God** should be **careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable to men.

- Our true saving faith is demonstrated by our works of love

**Galatians 5:6** ... in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

- **Good you believe in God but not Salvation**
  1. Demons believe there is a God
  2. Demons believe there is one true God
  3. Demons are not saved. Tremble at their fate...

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

[lit. Useless] 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect [lit. Complete]? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man **is justified by works, and not by faith only.**

- **Key:** Abraham was justified [declared righteous] by faith **before he offered Isaac**

**Genesis 15:6** [Abraham] believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

**Q.** If Abraham died before offering Isaac would he have been saved?

**A. Of course**

- Abraham believed God and was Saved/His works proved his Saving Faith

**Clear teaching of Scripture: Can't Keep Whole Law  
Salvation by Grace alone through Faith alone in Jesus Alone. Period.**

**Isaiah 41:8** ... Abraham My friend.

- **What is a friend of God?** One who believes God and proves it by doing what He says

**John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 **You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.**

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

- **Once enemy of God:** Rahab proved her Saving Faith by...
  1. **Believing** what God said
  2. **Acting** upon it by hiding spies

**Hebrews 11:31** By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe,

when she had received the spies with peace.

**Joshua 2:11** And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

**Q.** What if Rahab truly believed God but died before hiding the spies. Would she be saved?

**A.** Of course. She did not need the work to save her

**Q.** What if Rahab said she believed God but did not hide the spies?

**A:** It would have been proof that she did not truly believe God

- **She did believe God** and proved it with obedience to His Word...

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is **dead** [useless] also.

Glad Rahab the prostitute was not passed over by God...**who saw her heart**  
Rahab became Great Grandmother of King David/Great, great grandmother of Jesus

**SUMMARY Faith W/out Works is not Saving Faith**