



# The Park Church: Corporate Bible Study

*BIBLE JOURNEY: OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF JAMES*

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# Looking Back – Moving Forward

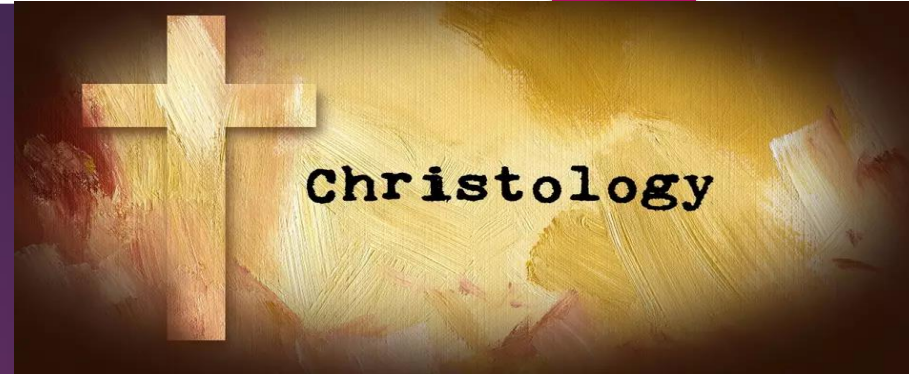
Let's look at a few examples of what Min. Tamala Bullard covered the last time we were together.

She covered:

**Lesson 2: Hebrews Christology**

**Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews**

# What is Christology?



**Christology, derived from “Christ,” referring to Jesus, and “-ology,” meaning “the study of,” is the study of Christ, both Jesus as a person and the works of Christ. Christology is far-reaching. As one might expect, it covers Jesus’ earthly birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. However, it also pertains to His eternal existence prior to His earthly life, His humanity and deity, Old Testament Christological prophecies, and His future return and reign.**

**Christology is a great spiritual benefit for faithful Christians to know how and why Christ saves mankind.**

# Christ Superiority

**Christ's  
Ministry is  
Superiority  
He is Better  
than...He is  
Our Creator  
and  
Sustainer.**

JESUS THE SON AND THE AARONIC PRIESTS	
THE SON	AARONIC PRIESTS
IS UNDEFILED BY SIN AND THUS HAS NO NEED TO OFFER SACRIFICES FOR HIS SIN	WERE OBLIGATED TO OFFER SACRIFICES FOR THEIR OWN SINS (7:27; SEE ALSO 5:1-3)
HAS A HEAVENLY MINISTRY (7:26)	HAD AN EARTHLY MINISTRY (7:27-28)
OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE, ONCE FOR ALL (7:27)	OFFERED DAILY SACRIFICES (7:27)
OFFERED HIMSELF AS THE SACRIFICE (7:27)	OFFERED ANIMAL AND OTHER SACRIFICES (7:27)
APPOINTED BY DIVINE OATH (7:28)	APPOINTED ON BASIS OF ANCESTRY (7:28)
HAS BEEN MADE PERFECT FOREVER (7:28)	WERE FAR FROM PERFECT, AND COULD NOT LEAD MEN TO PERFECTION (7:11, 27-28)

# The Old and New Covenants Reading

***One of the overriding points in Hebrews is the supremacy of Christ over everything prior. The author specifically contrasts the New Covenant in Jesus and the Old Covenant that he transcends.***

Theme	In the Old Covenant...	In the New Covenant...
The Tabernacle	A physical structure and shadow of heavenly reality (Ex 25:40)	A more perfect tabernacle not made with human hands (Heb 9:11)
The Sanctuary	Approachable only at its outer limits by lay people and by ordinary priests only at the altar (Lev 1:3, 5; 9:5, 23-24; 9:7-8)	Approachable even in the inner sanctuary through Jesus' mediation (Heb 4:16)
The Mediators	Moses at Sinai (Ex 19:1-25) and the Aaronic priesthood in the dwelling place	Jesus becomes our mediator in a new and better covenant. (Heb 8:6)
The Priesthood	Made sacrifices day after day for themselves (Lev 4:3; 16:6, 11)	Jesus did not need to offer a sacrifice for himself. (Heb 7:27)
The Sacrifices	Offered constantly year after year (Lev 4:3; 16:6, 11)	Jesus offers himself once securing an eternal redemption. (Heb 7:27)

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

OLD TESTAMENT PERSON OF FAITH	REFERENCE IN HEBREWS 2	REFERENCE IN OLD TESTAMENT
ABEL	11:4	GENESIS 4
ENOCH	11:5	GENESIS 5:18-24
NOAH	11:7	GENESIS 5:29-10:32
ABRAHAM	11:8-19	GENESIS 12-25; ETC
SARAH	11:11	GENESIS 12-23; ISAIAH 51:2
ISAAC	11:17-20	GENESIS 17-35; ETC
JACOB	11:21	GENESIS 25-50; ETC
JOSEPH	11:21-22	GENESIS 37-50; ETC
MOSES	11:23-29	EXODUS 2:10 AND THROUGHOUT THE PENTATEUCH; ETC
RAHAB	11:31	JOSHUA 2:1,3; 6:17-25
GIDEON	11:32	JUDGES 6-8
BARAK	11:32	JUDGES 4-5
SAMSON	11:32	JUDGES 13-16
JEPHTHAH	11:32	JUDGES 11-12; 1 SAMUEL 12:11
DAVID	11:32	RUTH 4; 1-2 SAMUEL; ETC
SAMUEL	11:32	1 SAMUEL; 1 CHRONICLES 6, 9, 11, 26; 2 CHRONICLES 35:18

## Lesson 3: The Old

## Testament in Hebrews 11— People of Faith

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

# Studio P Slide Only

**Video 1:**

**Study 6, Course 2**

**Lesson 1: Overview of James**

**Introduction Video to James and 1,2 and 3 John by Dr. Nicole Martin**

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- ▶ **James**
- ▶ This letter was written by James, the brother of Jesus (see Matthew 13:55), who initially misunderstood the nature of Jesus's mission (see John 7:2-5), but became the leader of the **Jerusalem** church shortly after Jesus's death and resurrection in 30AD (see Acts 1:14 & 12:17). He was one of the few people to whom Jesus appeared on his own after the resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15:7).
- ▶ Paul, on his first visit to **Jerusalem** after his conversion, visited James and his wife in 38AD (see Galatians 1:19 & 1 Corinthians 9:5), and did the same on his last visit to **Jerusalem** in 57AD (see Acts 21:18). James was known to the early Christians as 'James the Righteous', and Paul refers to him as one of the 'pillars' of the church (see Galatians 2:9).

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- ▶ It was James who chaired the Council of **Jerusalem** in 49/50AD, and sent the letter to the believers in **Antioch in Syria** explaining the leaders' decision that Gentile believers need not be circumcised (see Acts 15:12-21).

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**Video 2:  
(Lesson 1)**

**In | Key Themes in James**

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**Video 2:  
(Lesson 1)**

**In | Ministry in the Church [Bonus]**

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- ▶ **Theological Outline of James (Disciples Study Bible)**
- ▶ **1. Salutation (1:1)**
- ▶ **2. True Religion is Developed by Trials and Testing (1:2-15)**
  - a. Joy is the correct response to times of testing (1:2)
  - b. The testing of faith can result in steadfastness which, when mature, enables us to be perfect, complete, and lacking nothing. (1:3,4)
  - c. True Wisdom comes from God and is available to those who ask in faith, not doubting (1:5-8)
  - d. Wealth may be a test of faith, not a proof of faith. (1:9-11)
  - e. Perseverance under trial leads to blessing. (1:12)
  - f. Temptation comes from within, not from God, and is to be resisted. (1:13-15)

# Lesson One: Overview of James

## Theological Outline (Continued)

- ▶ **3. True Religion Is Initiated by Faith (1:16 – 2:26)**
  - a. **Salvation by faith is a gift from God, as are all good gifts. (1:16 – 17)**
  - b. **Salvation as an expression of God's will is related to God's Word. (1:18 – 27)**
    - 1. **We are to receive God's Word. (1:18 – 21)**
    - 2. **We are to do God's Word, not just hear it. (1:22 – 25)**
  - c. **Saving faith does not show favoritism but shows love to all (2: 1 – 13)**
  - d. **Saving faith issues in godly attitudes and actions. (2:14 – 26)**
    - 1. **Faith without action is dead. (2:14 – 17)**
    - 2. **Belief is not enough; even the demons believe in God. (2:18 – 20)**
    - 3. **Faith and works go together inseparably. (2:21- 26)**

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- ▶ **Theological Outline (Continued)**
- ▶ **4. True Religion Is Guided by Wisdom (3:1-18)**
  - a. The wise person controls the tongue. (3:1 – 12)
  - b. Earthly wisdom is characterized by evil attitudes and actions. (3:13- 16)
  - c. The wise person's life is characterized by moral behavior. (3:17 – 18)
- ▶ **5. True Religion is Demonstrated by Works (4:1 – 5:12)**
  - a. Avoid acting selfishly instead of asking God. (4:1 – 3)
  - b. Avoid being friendly with the world. (4:4 – 5)
  - c. Possess the proper attitude toward self – being humble, not proud or presumptuous (4:6 – 10)
  - d. Avoid speaking against or judging other Christians (4:11 - 12)

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- ▶ **Theological Outline (Continued)**
- ▶ **5. True Religion is Demonstrated by Works (Cont.)**
  - e. **Avoid presuming on God's time. (4:13 – 16)**
  - f. **Do not fail to do what you know is right. (4:17)**
  - g. **Avoid depending on wealth. (5:1 – 3)**
  - h. **Avoid treating persons unjustly. (5:4 – 6)**
  - i. **Do not be impatient, for the Lord is coming (5:7 – 11)**
  - j. **Do not take oaths. (5:12)**

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- ▶ **Theological Outline (Continued)**
- ▶ **6. True Religion is Expressed in Prayer (5:13 – 20)**
  - a. **Prayer, including intercession, is a significant part of true religion (5:13 – 16)**
    - 1. **Prayer is a proper response to suffering and illness (5:13 – 14)**
    - 2. **Prayers are to be offered in faith, with right motives. (5:15)**
    - 3. **Prayer includes confession of sins. (5:16a)**
  - b. **The righteousness of the person praying is related to the effectiveness of the prayer (5:16b)**
  - c. **All humans can pray and be heard (5:17 – 18)**
  - d. **Intercession for sinners is an important Christian responsibility. (5:19 – 20)**

# Lesson One: Overview of James

Wisdom in James	Wisdom in Proverbs
<b>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (James 1:5, ESV)</b>	For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity. (Prov 2:6-7, ESV)
<b>And the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So, also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. (James 1:10-11, ESV)</b>	Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. (Prov 11:28, ESV)
<b>Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1:19, ESV)</b>	Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly. (Prov 14:29, ESV)

# Lesson One: Overview of James

**My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (James 2:1, ESV)**

**It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice. (Prov 18:5, ESV)**

**But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? (James 2:6, ESV)**

The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends. Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor. (Prov 14:20-21, ESV)

**For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. (James 3:2, ESV)**

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. (Prov 10:19, ESV)

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**Video 3**  
**(Lesson 1 Overview of James)**

**In Front | Worldview of The Wisdom Tradition**

# Lesson One: Overview of James

James	1 Clement
<p><b>Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:13, NIV)</b></p>	<p>Let the wise show his wisdom, not in words, but in good deeds; let him that is humble not bear witness to himself but leave another to bear witness to him. (1 Clement 38:2)</p>
<p><b>But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” (James 4:6, NIV)</b></p> <p><b>You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. (James 2:24, NIV)</b></p>	<p>For God, he says, resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. Let us cleave, therefore, to them to whom grace has been given from God. Let us clothe ourselves with concord, being humble, temperate ... justified by our deeds, and not by our words. (1 Clement 30:2-3)</p>

# Lesson One: Overview of James

James	The Shepherd of Hermas
<b>And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:4, ESV)</b>	Now this patience dwells with those who have complete faith. (Hermas, Mandate 5.2.3)
<b>Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. (James 4:11a, ESV) No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:8, ESV)</b>	Do not slander anyone ... Slander is an evil thing; it is an unstable demon. (Hermas, Mandate, 2.2.3)
<b>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7, ESV)</b>	If therefore you resist him (the devil), he will, being conquered, flee from you. (Hermas, Mandate 12.5.2)
<b>There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (James 4:12, ESV)</b>	Fear the one who is able to save and destroy all things. (Hermas, Mandate, 12.6.3)

# Lesson One: Overview of James

James presents several basic lessons that we should learn as Christians:

1. We should seek God's wisdom, not the wisdom of the world.
2. Faith is essential to salvation.
3. Genuine salvation ushers us into a life of obedience to God's will and of ministry to our neighbor, into a life of reverence for God, prayer, purity, humility, ministry and self-control – especially the tongue.
4. Trials and tribulations of the Christian when met with joy and steadfastness can strengthen our life in Christ.
5. Failing to do the good we know to do is sin.
6. Attitudes, as well as actions, are important; attitudes lead to action.

# Lesson One: Overview of James

- 7. Wealth presents special problems for Christians, including giving preferential treatment to the wealthy in churches.**
- 8. The devil and the pull of the world to accept its standards can be successfully resisted.**
- 9. Christ's return provides strong motivation to follow Him patiently and faithfully.**
- 10. Turning sinners from the errors of their ways is a vital part of the Christian life.**