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**FROM DUST TO DESTINY**

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**JAMES**

An open book with aged, yellowed pages is shown from a top-down perspective. The book is open to two pages of text. The text "Constitution for Kingdom Conduct" is overlaid in a yellow, gothic-style font across the center of the open pages.

**Constitution for Kingdom Conduct**

# THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

**15** time the audience is referred to as “brethren”  
(1:2, 16, 19; 2:1, 5, 14; 3:1, 10, 12; 4:11; 5:7, 9, 12, 19)

**20** or more allusion to the Sermon on the Mount  
1:2 & Matt 5:11-12; 1:22 & Matt 7:24; 2:5 & Lk 6:20;  
3:10-12 & Matt 7:16-19; 3:18 & Matt 5:9; 5:12 & Matt 5:34-36

**30** (at least) references to nature  
1:6, 10-11; 3:3, 4, 5, 7, 11-12, 18; 5:18

**40** or more allusions, illustrations, or quotes from the  
Old Testament spanning some **22** books

# THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

James	O.T.
1:10	Isa. 40:6
1:19	Prov. 27:27; Ecc. 5:2
2:1	Lev. 19:15; Prov. 24:23; Lev. 29:18
2:8	Lev. 19:18
2:11	Exod. 20:13-15; Deut. 5:17
2:21	Gen. 22:2, 9
2:23	Gen. 15:6
2:25	Josh. 2:4, 6, 15; 6:17, 23
3:9	Gen. 1:26

James	O.T.
4:6	Prov. 3:34
5:4	Deut. 24:15,17; Mal. 3:5;
5:5	Jer. 12:3
5:7	Deut. 11:14; Jer. 5:24; Joel 2:23; Zech. 10:1
5:11	Job 1:21-22; 42:1-17
5:17-18	1 Kgs. 17:1; 28:41
5:20	Prov. 10:12

40 or more allusions, illustrations, or quotes from the Old Testament spanning some 22 books

# THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

## THE AUTHOR

Four NT individuals with the name James (*Grk.* Jacob)

**James, the son of Alphaeus “James the Less”**

(Mt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; 15:40; Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13; 12:2)

**James, the father of Judas, not Iscariot**

(Lk. 6:16)

**James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John**

(Mt. 4:21; Mk. 1:19; Lk. 5:10) Martyred in AD 44 (Acts 12:2) before epistle written

**James, the half-brother of Jesus**

(Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3; Gal. 1:19) Strongest evidence points to this James

*These two James' are virtually unknown apart from these verses*

# THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

James	Common Wording	Acts 15
1:1	“greetings”	15:23
1:16, 19; 2:5	“beloved”	15:25
1:21; 5:20	“your souls”	15:24,26
1:27	“visit”	15:14
2:10	“keep”	15:24
5:19, 20	“turn”	15:19



# Eratosthenes of Cyrene



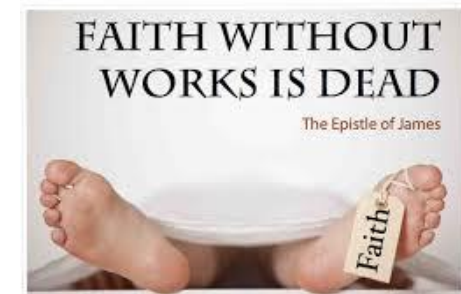
Eratosthenes exhausted his energies to verify the genuineness of prime numbers by giving mankind his number sieve.

However, James gave us a book (five short chapters) to verify the genuineness of our faith.

**True saving faith is validated by righteous behavior.**

Covenantal

Conduct



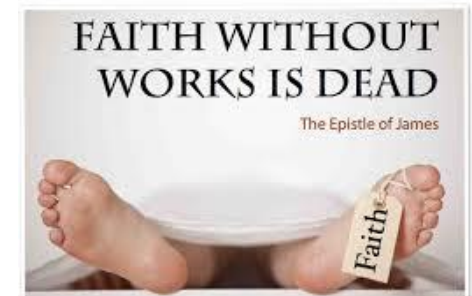
# Understanding the Theme of James

True living faith is **verified** by living works.

- **True saving faith is validated by righteous behavior.**

Authentic Christianity is **evidenced** by vibrant fruit.

Kingdom Living



# Understanding Paul & James

- **Paul**

**Question:** How is salvation *received*?

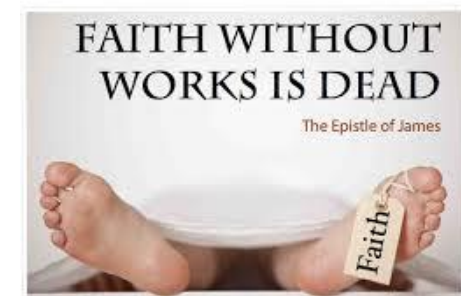
**Answer:** by faith alone

- **James**

**Question:** How is salvation *verified*?

**Answer:** by works alone

Kingdom  
Conduct





# The Test of ...

I. Perseverance in Suffering

II. Blame in Temptation

III. Response to the Word

IV. Impartial Love

V. Righteous Works

VI. The Tongue

VII. Humble Wisdom

VIII. Worldly Indulgence

IX. Dependence

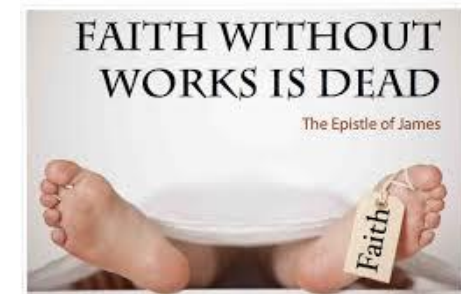
X. Patient Endurance

XI. Truthfulness

XII. Prayerfulness

XIII. True Faith

Constitution for Kingdom Conduct



# Conflict: James 1:2-11

**If there were not tribulation  
there would be no rest.**

**If there were no winter  
there would be no summer.**

**Do not fear the conflict, do not flee it. Where there is no struggle, there is no virtue. Where love and faith are not tempted, it is not possible to be sure whether they are really present. They are tried and revealed in adversity, in difficult and grievous circumstances.**

**St. John Chrysostom**

# Scripture & Study

James 1:12 & 22-25

Let us give diligent heed  
to the study of scripture.  
For in the tumult of life it  
will save you from  
suffering like those who  
are tossed by troubled  
waves.

*St. John Chrysostom*

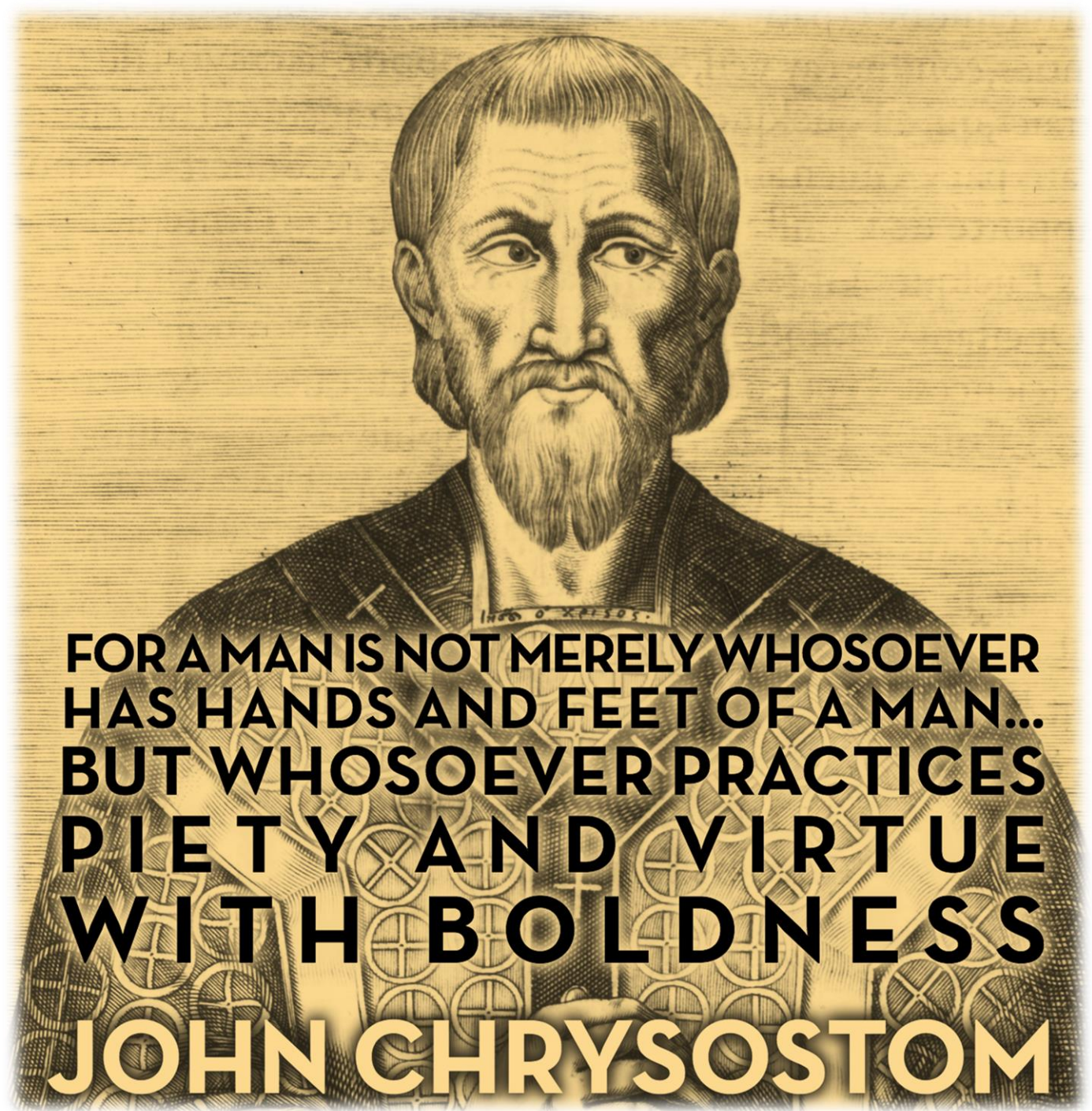
*The Holy Scriptures were not  
given to us that we should  
enclose them in books, but that  
we should engrave them upon  
our hearts.*

*St. John Chrysostom*

# Godliness, Piety, and Virtue

JAMES 1:27

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”



**FOR A MAN IS NOT MERELY WHOSOEVER  
HAS HANDS AND FEET OF A MAN...  
BUT WHOSOEVER PRACTICES  
PIETY AND VIRTUE  
WITH BOLDNESS  
JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

# St. John Chrysostom

The sins of the rich, such as greed and selfishness, are **obvious for all to see**. The sins of the **poor** are **less conspicuous**, yet equally corrosive of the soul. Some poor people are tempted to envy the rich; indeed this is a form of vicarious greed, because the poor person wanting great wealth is in spirit no different from the rich person amassing great wealth.

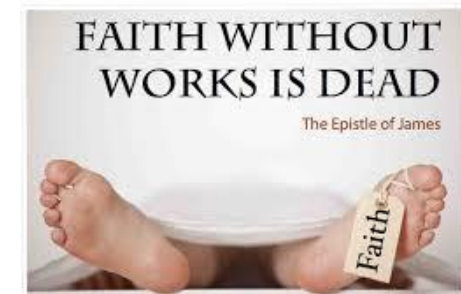
# St. John Chrysostom

Many poor people are gripped by fear: their hearts are caught in a chain of anxiety, worrying whether they will have food on their plates tomorrow or clothes on their backs. Some poor people are constantly formulating in their minds devious plans to cheat the rich to obtain their Wealth; this is no different in spirit from the rich making plans to exploit the poor by paying low wages. **The art of being poor is to trust in God for everything, to demand nothing – and to be grateful for all that is given.**

# Outlining the Book of James

- I. The Test of Perseverance in Suffering (1:2-12)
- II. The Test of Blame in Temptation (1:13-18)
- III. The Test of Response to the Word (1:19-27)
- IV. The Test of Impartial Love (2:1-13)
- V. The Test of Righteous Works (2:14-26)
- VI. The Test of the Tongue (3:1-12)

Covenant Conduct in Kingdom



# JAMES 3:1-12

“Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers and sisters? The evil speaker eats the flesh of his brother and bites the body of his neighbor.”

**SLANDER IS  
WORSE THAN  
CANNIBALISM.**

*Saint John Chrysostom*



# The Speaking Tongue



“The mark of a soul that loves wisdom always gives thanks to God. If you have suffered evil, give thanks and it is changed to good. He has not sinned who suffered the evil but he who has done the evil. Give thanks even in disease, lack of possessions, or false accusations. It is not we who are injured but those who are the authors of them.”

**James 3:1-12**

# Philosophy: Love of Wisdom

The highest point of philosophy is to be both wise and simple; this is the angelic life.

-John Chrysostom

James 3:17  
But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

# St. John Chrysostom



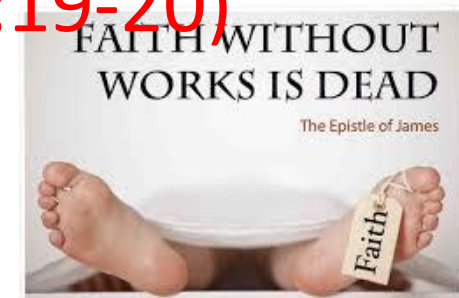
Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.

**When you are weary of praying, and do not receive, consider how often you have heard a poor man calling, and have not listened to him.**

# Outlining the Book of James

- VII. The Test of Humble Wisdom (3:13-18)
- VIII. The Test of Worldly Indulgence (4:1-12)
- IX. The Test of Dependence (4:13-17)
- X. The Test of Patient Endurance (5:1-11)
- XI. The Test of Truthfulness (5:12)
- XII. The Test of Prayerfulness (5:13-18)
- XIII. The Test of True Faith (5:19-20)

**Covenant Conduct in Kingdom**



# A PASTOR'S HEART FOR SINNERS

TITUS 2:14, ROMANS 12:1-2, ACTS 2:38, MARK 2:17, JEREMIAH 8:22

“Being men, we sin every day, but Saint Paul consoles us by saying “renew yourselves” from day to day. This is what we do with houses: we are constantly repairing them as they break down. You should do the same thing to yourself.”

*“Did you commit sin?  
Enter the Church and repent for your sin;  
for here is the physician, not the judge;  
here one is not investigated, one receives  
remission of sins”*

“Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;  
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.”

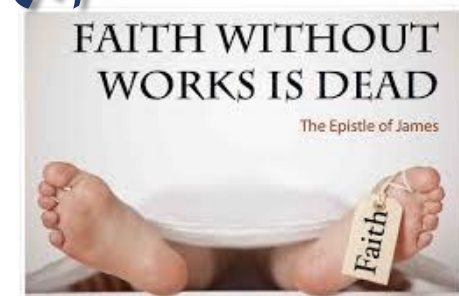
# True Salvation can be seen in:

## “The Sermon on the Mount”

*Matthew 5, 6, & 7*

- Attitude of True Salvation *5:3-12*
- Testimony consistent with Attitude *5:13-16*
- Commitment to the Law of God *5:17-20*
- Keeping righteousness of the heart *5:21-48*
- Right Worship *6:1-18*
- Money and Material Things *6:19-34*
- Right Relationships *7:1-12*
- Right Road *7:13-14*
- Illustration *7:24-29*

Kingdom Conduct  
in the Covenant



# Understanding Paul & James

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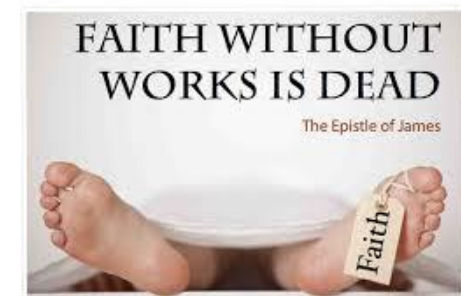
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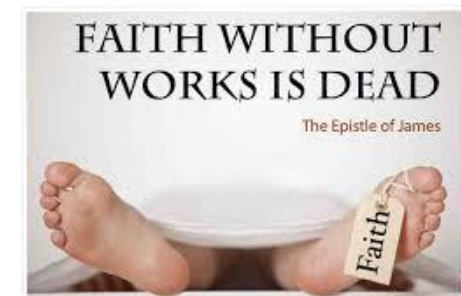
# Eratosthenes of Cyrene



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However, James gave us a book (five short chapters) to verify the genuineness of our faith.

Will you evaluate your life in light of scripture to see if God's grace has invaded the fabric of your life – lest the Lord say to any of us "Depart from me; I never know you."





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# JAMES

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*Covenant Conduct in the Kingdom*