

JAMES

1. TITLES:

- A. James = supplanter
- B. B. The Epistle of James
- C. C. The Book of Faith and Works

2. AUTHOR:

Uncertain. Most scholars ascribe the authorship of this epistle to either James the son of Joseph or James the son of Alphaeus. The weight of evidence leans towards James the son of Alphaeus, who was one of the twelve apostles.

3. DATE:

Probably written between 45 and 53 A.D. thus making it the first of the New Testament epistles to be written.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Faith – 16
- B. Work (s) – 16
- C. Law – 10

5. KEY VERSES: 2:17,18

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To comfort and encourage Hebrew believers who were going through trials and temptations (1:2, 5:8).
- B. To correct some disorders and misconceptions among the Hebrew believers' assemblies.
- C. To refute the tendency to divorce faith and works.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. True faith is always shown by its good works.

JAMES

B. Good works are not a means to salvation, but rather are the product of salvation.

C. Though man is not justified by the law of works, he is justified by the law of faith-works.

8. OUTLINE:

- I. Faith Tested and Shown by our TEMPTATIONS 1:1-21
- II. Faith Shown by our WORKS 1:22- 2:26
- III. Faith Shown by our WORDS 3:1-18
- IV. Faith Shown by our UNWORLDLINESS 4:1-5-6
- V. Faith Shown by our PATIENCE 5:7-12
- VI. Faith Shown by our PRAYERS 5:13-20

9. SUMMARY:

The apostle James became known as the bishop of the Jerusalem church. He wrote this epistle from Jerusalem “to the twelve tribes scattered abroad” (the Hebrew believers living in other lands). Rather than writing a doctrinal treatise, he wrote an epistle of practical Christian living, showing that in every area the “heart” of the matter is seen by its “fruit”. He relates the principle of faith to trial, temptation, works, words, worldliness, patience, and prayers. There is no conflict between Paul and James concerning faith and works as some have suggested. Paul, in Romans, deals with justification by faith, apart from works, before salvation (Rom. 3:27, 28). James deals with justification by works after salvation (Jas. 2:20-24).

NOTE: There is a remarkable correspondence between James and the Sermon on the Mount, and there is hardly a thought that cannot be traced to Christ’s personal teaching.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Lord of Glory (2:1), the Judge (4:12), the Lord of Hosts (5:4), the Husbandman (5:7), and the One who demonstrated perfect faith by perfect works.