

## **The Epistle of James**

James 2:1-26

- Questions

1. What sin does James address (2:1)?
  
2. How did this sin manifest itself among these brethren (2:2-4)?
  
3. How are poor brethren rich and what do they have from God (2:5)?
  
4. What were the rich doing that was wrong (2:6-7)?
  
5. What OT law does James encourage the brethren to follow (2:8)?
  
6. What does committing one sin make a person (2:9-11)?
  
7. What encouragement is given these brethren to correct this sin (2:12)?
  
8. What warning is given these brethren to correct this sin (2:13)?
  
9. What problem does James address and what rhetorical questions does he ask in order to confront this problem (2:14-16)?
  
10. What, according to James, is faith apart from works (2:17-20, 26)?
  
11. How was Abraham justified by works (2:21-23; see also Heb. 11:17-19)?

12. What does and does not justify a man (2:24)?

13. How was Rahab justified by works (2:25; see also Heb. 11:31)?

- Digging Deeper

1. What OT scriptures are cited in James 2:8 and 2:11? Where in the NT is Leviticus 19:18 repeated?

2. What is the “royal law” and why is it called such (2:8)?

3. What is meant by the phrase: “*mercy rejoiceth against judgment*” – KJV (2:13)?

4. What point is James making in this context with reference to demons (2:19)?

5. What OT scripture tells the story of Abraham and Isaac (2:21) and the story of Rahab (2:25)? What OT scripture is quoted in James 2:23?

- Applications for Today

1. Being a respecter of persons (prejudice, favoritism) is a sin (2:1, 9; Acts 10:34).

2. We must not be “judges with evil thoughts” (2:4; Mt. 12:24ff; 1 Tim. 6:4).

3. Poor brethren are rich in faith (2:5; Mt. 5:3; Rev. 2:9).

4. We must love our neighbor as our self (2:8; Lev. 19:18; Mt. 22:39; Lk. 10:27-28; Gal. 5:14).

5. Breaking God’s law with just one sin is a serious matter (2:9-11; 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17).

6. The New Testament Law of Christ is the “law of liberty” (2:12; James 1:25; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 5:1; 6:2).

7. The person who shows no mercy to others will be shown no mercy from God (2:13; Mt. 5:7; 18:32-35; Lk. 6:37ff).

8. Christians must say and do with regard to their benevolence or any activity of the Christian life (2:12, 14-16; Mt. 7:21-23; 1 Jn. 3:17-18).

9. Good works are a part of the Christian’s life (2:14-26; Eph. 2:10; Tit. 2:14; 3:8). Faith and works are not mutually exclusive. Faith is made perfect (complete) when faith actively works to obey God’s word (2:22; Gal. 5:6; 1 Thess. 1:3).

10. Salvation by “faith only” is a man-made doctrine that does not come from God’s word (2:24). Faith alone apart from obedient works is dead (2:17-20, 26; Rom. 1:5; 16:26).