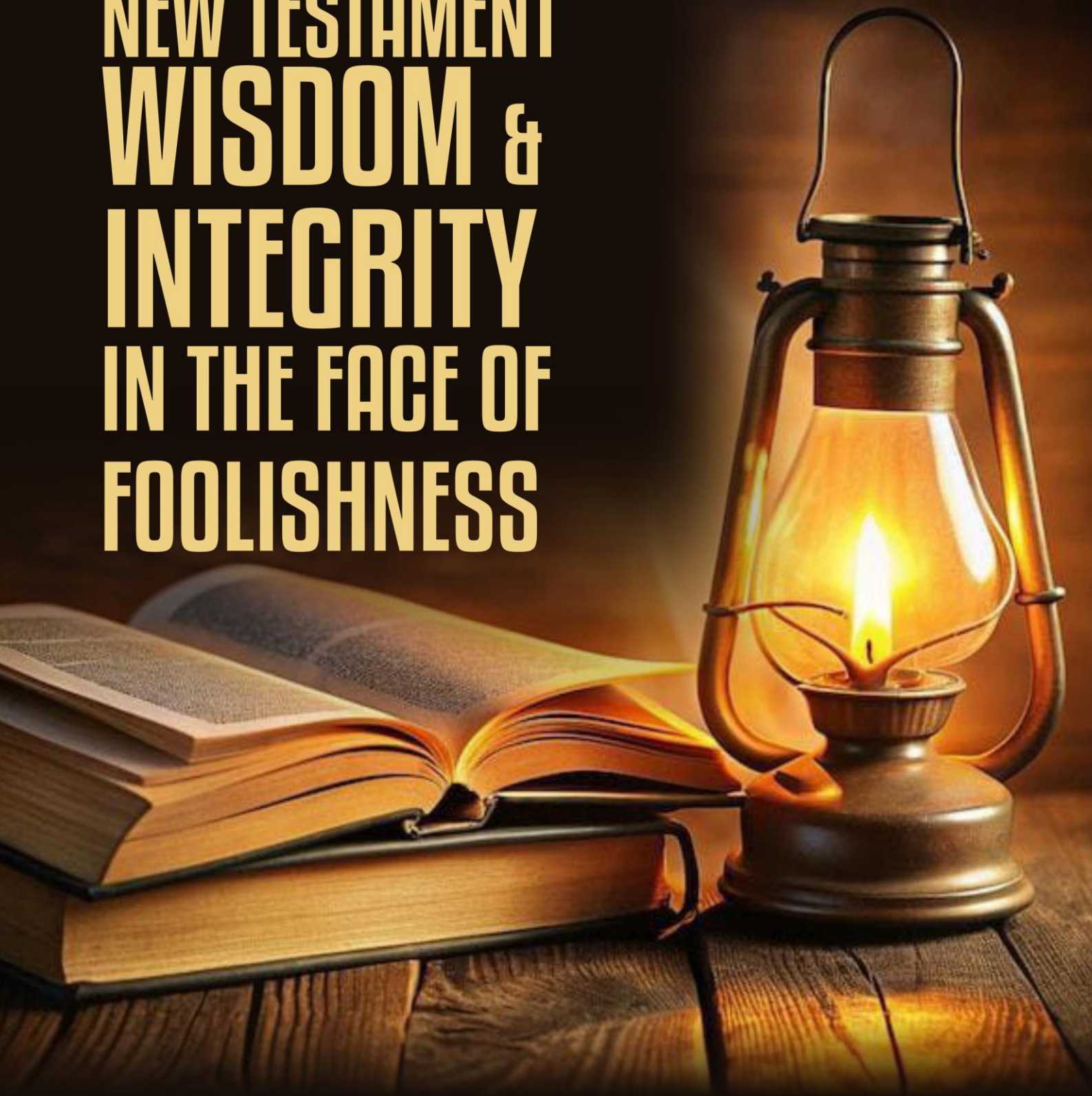


SUNDAY TEACHING

**THE PRACTICAL
NEW TESTAMENT
WISDOM &
INTEGRITY
IN THE FACE OF
FOOLISHNESS**



BRO. SUNDAY U. ONAH

20TH JULY, 2025.

**THE OVERALL THEME: THE PRACTICAL NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY
AND RELIGION**

(ACTS 1:1-2; PHIL. 1:27; 1 TIM. 3:14-15; JAS. 1:26-27)

**THE QUARTERLY THEME: THE PRACTICAL NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY
DO'S AND DON'TS FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES**

(JAS. 1:21-27; JAS. 2:14-26)

**THE TOPIC OF THE DAY: THE PRACTICAL NEW TESTAMENT WISDOM AND
INTEGRITY IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS**

(JAS. 3:13-18; JAS. 2:14-26; PSA. 37:30-33)

INTRODUCTION

A. THE STARTLING STATEMENTS OF OUR STUDY

Brethren, Faith Without Works Or Practical Doing And Living By What We Preached, Taught And Believed Cannot Be Called Faith As Recorded In The Books Of James 2:14-26 And Heb. 11:1-40 Respectively.

A Dead Faith Is Worse Than No Faith At All. Faith Must Work Or Put Into Practice In Our Lives As Christians Either As Leaders Or Members. Faith Must Produce Action That Is Visible, Tangible, Reasonable, Measureable And Practical Through Humility And Obedience. Verbal Faith Is Not Enough If We Are To Embrace “The Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion” Expected From Us As Believers In Christ Jesus.

Mental Faith Is Insufficient! It Must Inspire Action, Humility And Obedience In Our Lives. By Doing So, We Are Demonstrating Living Faith, Holy Faith, Great Faith And Practical Faith That Will Enable Us To Overcome, Conquer And Be Victorious At The End Of Our Journey Here On Earth Like The Heroes Or Halls Of Faith In The Book Of Hebrews 11:1-40.

Faith And Works Go Together; While Faith And Fear Works Against Each Other Through Pride. But, Humility And Obedience Works Together To Bring About The Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion.

Throughout His Epistle Or Letter To The Jewish Believers, James Introduces True Faith And Everyday Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion Experiences By Stressing, Focusing And Emphasizing That True And Living Faith Must Manifest Itself In Work Of Faith And In Absence Of Fear And Pride.

Faith Endures Trials! Trials Come And Go, But A Strong, Living, Great, Holy Or Practical Faith Will Face Them Head-On And Develop Endurance, Humility, Integrity, Patience, Obedience, Wisdom, And Perseverance At All Times.

Faith Understands Temptations, Tribulations, Persecutions And Trials. It Will Not Allow Us To Be Defeated By Our Lusts And Pride Of Life To Fall Into Sin.

Faith Obeys The Word Of God And His Commandments. It Will Not Hear And Not Do. Faith Produces Doers Not Hearers Alone. Faith Displays Itself In Works. Faith Is More Than Mere Spoken Words; It Is More Than Knowledge; It Is Demonstrated By Obedience And Humility; And It Responds To The Promise Of God; Not By Pride But Through Integrity.

Faith Controls The Tongue. This Small But Immensely Powerful Red Part Of The Body Must Be Held In Check At All Times If We Are To Demonstrated “The Practical Christianity And Religion” Which Is Our Overall Theme Of These Serial Lessons Suggested To Be Studied This Quarter: WHY?

So That We Practically Carry Out Our Leadership Responsibilities, So That We Can Practically Apply Wisdom From Above, Not The Earthly Wisdom With Its Vices, So That We Can Practically On Daily Basis Live A Perfect Christian Life. So That We Can Practically Build A Christian Homes. So That We Can Practically Do The Right Things And Avoid The Wrong Things, By Carrying Out Our Religious Duties Appropriately, In Order To Know The Practical Ways To Grow In Christ As Obedient Church Leaders And Members In Bringing Up Our Children In God’s Way, Will, Wish And Desire.

This Is The Whole Essence Of The Serial Lessons For This Quarter Is All About As We Study In Our Various Classes.

Faith And Wisdom From Above Can Do It All For Us; Because, Faith Acts Wisely. It Gives Us The Ability And Capacity To Choose Wisdom That Is Heavenly And To Shun Or Reject Wisdom That Is Earthly; So That We Can Be Separated From The Devil Caused By Pride And Draw Nearer To God Almighty; As We Wait Patiently, Humbly Or Obediently For The Coming Of The Lord Jesus Christ Our Savior Through Faith In Him.

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Words Or Statements For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

B. THE GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR STUDY

- 1. To Give A Brief Definition Of Some Of The Key Words Contains In Our Overall Theme, Quarterly Theme And Topic Respectively.**
- 2. To Equally Give A Brief Background Of The Book Of James.**
- 3. To Further Do A Brief Contextual Analysis Of The Bible Texts Contain In Our Overall Theme, Quarterly Theme And Topic Accordingly.**
- 4. To Point Out Some Of The Practical Servant Leadership Responsibilities That Emphasizes On Humility, Service, Moral Integrity That Will Model Ethical Behavior, Conduct Character And Development In The Local Church.**
- 5. To Show How Christians Should Seek Wisdom From Above That Will Build Their Practical Faith In Their Daily Living.**
- 6. To Point Out The Roles Humility And Obedience Play In Face Of Pride And Vice-Versa.**
- 7. To Also Show The Roles Patience And Compassion Play In The Face Of Hasty And Vice-Versa.**
- 8. To Equally Demonstrate The Characteristics Of Wisdom And Integrity In The Face Of Foolishness.**
- 9. To Beware And Aware How To Maintain And Sustain Wisdom And Integrity In The Face Of Foolishness.**
- 10. To Beware And Aware The Works And Faith Do In The Face Of Foolishness**
- 11. To Also Show How Christians Should Beware And Aware Between Heavenly (Godly) And Earthly (Worldly Or Demonic) Wisdom In Play In The Face Of Foolishness.**

- 12. To Further Show How Pride Promotes Worldliness, Favoritism And Strife In The Face Of Foolishness.**
- 13. To Equally Show How Christian Should Beware And Aware How Wisdom, Integrity, Patience, Perseverance, Humility And Service Promotes, Produces, Enhances And Advances The Needs Of Others In The Local Church In The Face Of Pride, Hasty And Foolishness.**
- 14. Finally, To Encourage Christians Put The Do's And Don'ts Of The Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion In Their Daily Living.**

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Words Or Statements For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

PRESENTATION

A. A BRIEF DEFINITION OF SOME OF THE KEY WORDS

- 1. Practical**
- 2. Christianity**
- 3. Religion**
- 4. Do's**
- 5. Don'ts**
- 6. Wisdom**
- 7. Integrity**
- 8. Face**
- 9. Foolishness**

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Words Or Statements For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

B. A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF JAMES (JAS. 1:1-5:20)

The Name "Lakobos" In James 1:1 Is The Basis For The Early Titled "Lakobou" (Epistole), Meaning The Epistle Of James. Lakobos Is The Greek Form The Hebrew Name Jacob, A Jewish Name Commonly Known In The First Century New Testament Christianity; As James In Greek Translation.

James Is The Penman Or Writer Of The Book Of James, The Servant Of God And Of The Lord Jesus Christ In Verse 1 And To The Twelve Tribes Scattered All Over The Globe As A Result Of Trials, Tribulations, Temptations, And Persecutions In The First Century Christianity. Most Likely This James Was The Son Mary And Joseph, The Half Or Step Brother Of Jesus (Mark 6:3).

After Peter Left Jerusalem In Acts 12:17, James Took Over The Leadership Of The Church In Jerusalem With Other Apostles As Recorded In Acts 15:13. No Certain Or Accurate Date Can Be Obtained For The Composition Or Compilation Of The Book Of James. Most Biblical Scholars Date It Among The Earliest New Testament Books Between A.D. 49-50.

The Book Of James Is A Letter Or Treatise On Faith, Works, Trials, Tribulation, Humility, Obedience, Patience, Integrity, Perseverance And Wisdom, To Be Applied To Life During Difficult Times.

The Book Centers On "The Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion" As Stated In James 1:22-27 And James 2:18 Respectively; To Expose Hypocritical Practices And To Teach Right Christian Living By Doing, Practicing And Living By What We Say, Teach, Preach, Feel Or Do.

Finally, The Biblical Wisdom Contained In This Books Is Addressed To The People Of God; The Twelve Tribes Scattered All Over The Globe And The High Level Church Of Christ, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria To Enable Us Practice The Practical Christianity And Religion In Their Lives.

Brethren, Let Us Adopt This Slogan For The Book Of James During These Serial Lessons In This Quarter And Beyond As: “Talk The Talk, Walk The Talk And Work The Talk As We Practice And Live By “The Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion” Which Is The Old Time Religion That Is Good For You And I. It Is Also Good For Paul And Silas And The Early Church.

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Words Or Statements For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

C. BIBLE READING AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

1. Jas. 1:19-27
2. Jas. 2:14-26
3. Matt. 15:1-9
4. Matt. 17:1-5
5. Mark 7:1-13
6. Rom. 12:1-2
7. Col. 2:8-23
8. Heb. 1:1-4
9. Heb. 7:1-10:39
10. Psa. 115:4-8; Psa. 135:15-18

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Words Or Statements For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

D. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF HOW TO MAINTAIN AND SUSTAIN WISDOM AND INTEGRITY IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 1:1-11
2. Jas. 3:1-7
3. 1 Cor. 1:17-22

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

E. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF WISDOM AND INTEGRITY THROUGH LOVING GOD UNDER TRIALS IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 1:12-18
2. Jas. 1:1-11
3. 1 Cor. 1:17-22

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

F. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF HOW TO MAINTAIN AND SUSTAIN WISDOM AND INTEGRITY THROUGH BIBLICAL QUALITIES IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS UNDER TRIALS IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 1:19-27
2. Jas. 5:13-20
3. Phil. 4:10-20

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

G. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF PERSONAL FAVOURITISM AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENTS IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 2:1-13
2. Jas. 1:12-18
3. Jas. 1:1-11
4. 1 Cor. 1:17-22
5. 1 Cor. 3:19

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

H. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 2:14-26
2. Heb. 11:1-6
3. Heb. 11:7-40

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

I. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF THE UNTAMED OR UNCONTROLLED TONGUE IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 3:1-12
2. Jas. 1:12-18
3. Jas. 1:1-11
4. 1 Cor. 1:17-22
5. 1 Cor. 3:19

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

J. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF THE HEAVENLY, WORLDLY, EARTHLY OR DEMONIC WISDOM IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 3:13-18
2. 1 Cor. 1:17-22
3. 1 Cor. 3:19

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

K. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE OF PRIDE THAT PROMOTES WORLDLINESS, STRIFE, FAVOURITISM, JUDGMENT AND OPPRESS OTHERS IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 4:1-9
2. Jas. 4:11-12
3. Jas. 5:1-6

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

L. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE THAT WISDOM AND INTEGRITY PRODUCE AND PROMOTE PATIENCE, TOLERANCE AND PERSEVERANCE IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 1:6-12
2. Jas. 3:1-7
3. Gal. 5:21-22
4. Eph. 4:1-2

5. Phil. 2:1-4
6. Phil. 4:1-4
7. 1 Cor. 1:17-22

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

M. BRETHREN, BEWARE AND AWARE THAT WISDOM AND INTEGRITY PRODUCE THE NEEDS OF OTHERS IN THE FACE OF FOOLISHNESS

1. Jas. 5:13-20
2. Gal. 6:1-9
3. Rom. 12:1-8
4. 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15
5. Eph. 3:1-14
6. Eph. 4:11-16
7. Phil. 4:19-20
8. 2 Pet. 1:3-12

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

N. THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD IS WISER THAN THE WISDOM OF MEN (1 COR. 1:18-3:19; MATT. 23:1-39; GAL. 3:1-3)

1. Is God Almighty A Foolish God?
2. Is Men Wiser Than God?
3. Is The Weakness Of God Stronger Than The Strength Of Men?
4. Is The Strength Of Men Stronger Than The Weakness Of God?
5. The Jews Seek After Signs And Wonders.
6. The Greek Seeks After Wisdom.
7. The Word "Wise And Wisdom Appeared Eighteen (18) Times Between 1 Cor. 1:18-3:19.
8. The Word "Foolish And Foolishness Appeared Eight (8) Times Between 1 Cor. 1:18-3:19.
9. Brethren, What Is The Biblical Meaning Of The Phrase "The Foolishness Of God Is Wiser Than The Wisdom Of Men And The Weakness Of God Is Stronger Than The Strength Of Men?"

Note: Give A Brief Explanation, Exposition, Clarification And Interpretation Of The Above Bible Passages And Statements For Proper Understanding And Comprehension.

CONCLUSION

Summarily, Brethren, Genuine Or Active Faith In God Will Inevitably Produce Good Works. This Is Central Theme Of James' Letter, Around Which He Supplies Practical Advice On Living And Practicing The Christian Faith And Life.

James Begins His Letter By Outing Some General Characteristics Or Qualities Of The Christian Life (Jas.1:27). Next, He Exhorts Christians To Act Justly In The Society They Live (Jas.2:1-13). He Follows The Practical Advice With A Theological Discourse Or Discussion On The Relationship Between Faith And Works Or Action (Jas.2:1-26).

Then, James Shows The Importance Or Significance Of Controlling One's Speech Or Tongue (Jas.3:1-12.). In James 3:13-18, James Distinguishes Two Kinds Of Wisdom: Earthly And Heavenly. Then, He Encourages His Readers To Turn From Evil Desires, Pleasures, And Treasures And Obey God (Jas. 4:1-12).

In James 4:13-5:6, James Reproves Those Who Trust In Their Own Plans, Positions, Possessions, Powers, Personalities, Prestige, Fames, Statuses, Wealth And Riches (Jas. 4:13-5:6).

Finally, He Exhorts His Readers To Be Patient With Each Other (Jas. 5:7-11), To Be Straight Forward In Their Promises (Jas.5:12), To Pray For Each Other (Jas. 5:13-18, And To Keep Each Other Grow And Remain Faithful, Truthful, Thankful, Purposeful, And Fruitful In Life To Each Other And God Almighty (Jas. 5:19-20).

Brethren, This Letter Of James That Was Addressed To The Twelve Tribes Of Israel Scattered All Of The Globe And To Us Today; Could Be Considered As “A How-To-Book On Christian Faith: By Walking. Working, Doing, Practicing And Living.

The Practical New Testament Christianity And Religion In The Twenty First Century Is All About The Following:

- 1. Confident In God By Standing Firm.***
- 2. Courageous In Faith By Standing Steadfast.***
- 3. Consistent Faith In Servicing God.***
- 4. Compassion In Service Towards Others.***
- 5. Careful Speech Towards Each Other.***
- 6. Contrite Submission To God Through Faith.***
- 7. Committed Sacrifice Towards God’s Work.***
- 8. Concern Sharing And Supporting Each Other.***
- 9. Concerning Caring And Helping Each Other To Grow In Faith.***
- 10. Committed To Ethical Integrity Serving Humanity And God Almighty.***
- 11. Committed To Service And Sacrifice Through Faith; By Being Doers Of The Word Not Hearers Of The Word Alone.***
- 12. “The New Testament Christianity And Religion” Though Faith In Christ Jesus; By Being Doers Of The Word Not Hearers Of The Word Alone.***
- 13. Applying Wisdom To Life In The Face Of Pride, Hasty And Foolishness.***
- 14. Committed To Moral Behavior In Serving Humanity And God Almighty.***
- 15. Committed In Serving God In Humility And Obedience In The Face Of Hasty.***
- 16. Controlling Our Pride Through Humility In Service And Sacrifice.***
- 17. Controlling Our Tongues In The Face Of Pride And Foolishness.***
- 18. Exhibiting Or Demonstrating Humility In The Face Of Pride And Foolishness.***
- 19. Exhibiting Or Demonstrating Moral Behavior And Ethical Integrity In The Face Of Foolishness.***
- 20. Exhibiting Or Demonstrating Patience In The Face Of Pride, Hasty And Foolishness.***
- 21. Exhibiting Or Demonstrating Ethical Integrity, Moral Behavior, Humility, Obedience, And Patience In The Face Of Pride, Hasty And Foolishness.***

Therefore, Brethren Read, Study, Meditate, And Ponder Upon The Book Of James And Become A Doer Of The Word Not Hearer Alone!

CHORUS:

- 1. Give Me (Us) That Old Time True Religion (3x)***
For It Is Good Enough For Me
It Was Good For Paul And Silas (3x)
It Is Good Enough For Me (Us)

Prepared And Delivered By:

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