

James: A Short Overview

Theme: Christians live by faith by receiving God's word, doing God's word, and doing it for the right motives.

After a short introduction, James began with trials and temptations.

WEEK	DATE	TEXT	TITLE	SUMMARY
1	Jan 26	1:1	Introduction	This book is from James to scattered Jewish believers.
2	Feb 2	1:1-12	Trials	Trials are a source of joy and endurance. When trials are complex, God gives wisdom.
3	Feb 9	1:13-18	Temptation	God does not tempt; he gives gifts.

In the previous section, James wrote about God's giving of gifts, and God's best gift is the gift of salvation by the word of truth. Based upon this, James wrote the theme of his letter.

WEEK	DATE	TEXT	TITLE	SUMMARY
4	Feb 16	1:19-27	The Word	God's people receive God's word, do God's word, and do it with the right motives.

In the previous section, James about wrote God's word. He then addressed four situations where churches were either not doing God's word or not doing it with the right motives.

WEEK	DATE	TEXT	TITLE	SUMMARY
5	Feb 23	2:1-13	Partiality	Churches were treating rich guests better than poor guests, but they should have shown love and mercy equally to everyone.
6	Mar 2	2:14-26	Faith and Works	Churches were neglecting to care for the people in their own church, but good works always accompanies genuine faith.
7	Mar 9	3:1-12	Teaching in the Church (Part 1)	Churches were allowing immature believers to teach, but immature teachers can't control their tongue and thus will cause great destruction.
8	Mar 16	3:13-18	Teaching in the Church (Part 2)	Churches were allowing immature believers to teach; immature teachers are motivated by jealousy and ambition but should be motivated by godly wisdom.

9	Mar 23	4:1-10	Conflict	Churches were having conflict, which began in their hearts.
----------	--------	--------	----------	---

In the previous section, James commanded his readers to humble themselves in the sight of God. He went on to describe three groups of people who were not walking humbly.

WEEK	DATE	TEXT	TITLE	SUMMARY
12	Mar 30	4:11-12	Malicious Speech	Believers were speaking maliciously about their fellow believers.
	Apr 6			Spring Break
13	Apr 13	4:13-17	God's Will	Christian businessmen were making plans without considering God's will.
14	Apr 20	5:1-6	Mistreatment	Rich landowners were mistreating their workers.

In the previous section, James wrote about the mistreatment of the righteous poor at the hands of the unrighteous rich. He then gave four tendencies to sin in response to mistreatment and God's remedy for each.

WEEK	DATE	TEXT	TITLE	SUMMARY
15	Apr 27	5:7-11	Patience	The first remedy is to be patient instead of retaliating.
16	May 4	5:12	Honesty	The second remedy is to be honest instead of being deceitful.
17	May 11	5:13-18	Prayer	The third remedy is to be in prayer instead of going it alone.
18	May 18	5:19-20	Turning	The fourth remedy is to turn each other back to the truth instead of straying from it.