

James chapter 1

How does one become happy, according to verses 2 and 12?

Describe the process that begins with our suffering; what is its result? [2-5] Can we skip steps?

In verse 27 James summarizes what sort of religion is acceptable to God; what is it? More importantly, how do we get to that point? [19-26]

James chapter 2

What great sin is spoken of in verses 1-9? What must we do about it?

Orthodoxy versus orthopraxy: according to James in verses 14-19 what is the relationship between believing the right things and doing the right things?

What proof does James offer to his Jewish readers that his view of the relationship between faith and action is correct? [20-26] What specific actions does James mention among the “works”? [1:19, 26, 27; 2:1, 8, 15-16] What examples of good works would you include?

James chapter 3

What point is James making about teachers in verses 1-2?

Verse 8: “But no human being can subdue the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” Should we just cut our tongues out? Is it possible to control the dangerous tendencies of the tongue? Is this really all about one small part of our bodies, or is there a larger truth to learn here?

James moves from providing specific examples of good works to discussing the attitudes and motivations of believers; which is harder: to say what should be done, or to teach *how* it should be done? Which is the harder part of the actual doing (choosing what to do, or actually doing it properly)? [13-18]

Next week: 1 Peter chapters 2, 4, and 5.

James the Just

Galatians 1:19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Matthew 13:55 Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother named Mary? And aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?

John 7:5 (For not even his own brothers believed in him.)

I Corinthians 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Acts 1:14 All these continued together in prayer with one mind, together with the women, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 12:17 He motioned to them with his hand to be quiet and then related how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He said, "Tell James and the brothers these things," and then he left and went to another place.

Acts 15:13 After they stopped speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me.

Acts 21:18 The next day Paul went in with us to see James, and all the elders were there.