



## James Lesson 2

### REVIEW OF CHAPTER 1

*In a very forthright manner, James' letter addresses certain critical behaviors that had become issues in the early persecuted church. Much like Paul does in his letters to the Corinthians, James understands the necessity to teach and correct the flock in order for them to become a light to the world. It would be a natural response to severe trials to begin to withdraw from the call of God on their lives. Some may have been thinking that it wasn't necessary to let their new faith be known to the people around them since rejection or hostility was potentially the response they would receive.*

*Living out the gospel dynamically would be a sure way to make enemies. But James wasn't going to let them compromise the faith they had embraced. This significant opportunity in history wasn't the time to withdraw, but it was the time to be bold and courageous. It was a time to show by every action of their lives what Christ had done for them. But to do that would mean more than just mere verbal assent to the truth. It would require self-sacrifice and intentional application of the Law of Love modeled by their Savior. Faith in Christ must become a lifestyle not simply knowledge.*

*"You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?"*

*James 2:20*

### READ JAMES 2

1. *What were some of the problem areas of behavior that James discusses in chapter 1? From 2:1-4, describe the next problem he addresses.*

2. What is ironic about their behavior? 2:5-7

3. What is the “royal law,” and how were they breaking it?

4. Explain what you think James means by his “so speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty?” 2:12

5. How does “mercy triumph over judgment?” 2:13



The word “mercy” used to be a common word in the church, but it will not be as churches change to a more “positive” image, and refuse to preach on the subject of “hell” and “judgment.”

The “law of first mention” is a principle used in interpretation of Scripture. It means that we should take special note of how a word is used when it is first mentioned in the Bible.

Genesis 19:16-19

<sup>16</sup> And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. <sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. <sup>18</sup> And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: <sup>19</sup> Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

This “first mention” of the word “mercy” is when Lot is being spared from the judgment of God which is falling upon wicked Sodom and Gomorrah.

mercy = “The act of sparing, or the forbearance of a violent act expected.”

- Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

6. *What potential problem does James address in 2:14-17?*



*During the era of the first church there were two distinctive deceptions influencing converts to Christianity. One was a works/religious salvation and the other was grace-no-matter-what (cheap grace or easy believism). Throughout Scripture, the writers address both these issues. Paul generally addresses the works and legalistic religiosity, while James is dealing with the abusive of grace by using it to avoid the pursuit of righteousness.*

7. *Paraphrase Paul's comments in the following passages. Would you say Paul disagrees or agrees with James?*

*Romans 6:1-4*

*Romans 2:1-8*

*1 Corinthians 7:19*

*Galatians 5:19-25*

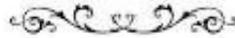
*Galatians 6:7-10*

8. *Why can't faith stand alone as evidence of salvation? 2:17*

9. *Why can't works stand alone for salvation? Galatians 3:1-7; Romans 4:1-5*

10. *Describe what genuine faith in Christ should look like according to both James and Paul.*

***“Faith and morals are two sides of the same coin. Indeed the very essence of faith is moral. Any professed faith in Christ as personal Savior that does not bring the life under plenary obedience to Christ as Lord is inadequate and must betray its victim at last.” A.W. Tozer***



***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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