

Studies in the Letter from James

Sunday AM, April 28, 2019

The Letter From James: James is faith with feet; it is a letter of practical exhortation and an expression of what living out the Christian life is like. James demonstrates saving faith by action, so much so that Luther thought it was an epistle of straw and not worth much. The key verse in James is:

***Show me your faith without the works,
And I will show you my faith by my works.***

- I. Authorship: James the brother of Jesus.**
- II. Outline (From Tyndale New Testament Commentary):**
 - A. Trials & Christian Maturity (1:2-18)
 - B. True Christianity Seen in its Works (1:19-2:26)
 - C. Dissensions Within the Community (3:1-4:12)
 - D. Implications of a Christian Worldview (4:13-5:11)
 - E. Concluding Exhortations (5:12-20)
- III. Trials (Verses 1:2-4)**
 - A. An unusual attitude toward trials & temptation (v2)
 - B. The benefit of testing (v3) δοκιμιον=endurance & perseverance
 - C. The chain reaction of maturity developed through tests (v4)
- IV. When Faced with Trials and We Don't Know What to Do (1:5-8)**
 - A. If we lack wisdom we are invited to ask God (v5)
 - 1. He gives to all generously
 - 2. He never reprimands
 - 3. He promises to answer our need and give guidance
- V. Confident Faith (vv6-8)**
 - A. We must ask in faith without doubting
 - B. The one who doubts is like the surf of the sea
 - C. He is double-minded and unstable in all his ways