

Studies in the Letter from James 2:1--13

Sunday, May 19, 2019

The Letter From James: We said in the first study that James, rather than being a logically developed theme from start to finish, was a series of practical admonitions in living the Christian life. As we move into chapter 2 James raises the issue of partiality among believers and faith that has no works to reflect it.



Show me your faith without the works,

And I will show you my faith by my works.

I. Transformed Attitudes

A. Our glorious Lord Jesus Christ

1. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. (Phi 2:3-7 NAU)
2. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Mat 11:29-30 NAU)

B. An attitude of personal favoritism is contrary to the nature of Jesus Christ

II. Practical Application

A. The rich man

B. The poor man

III. Contrast between the poor and the wealthy

A. The spiritual poverty of the wealthy:

And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. "When the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at *them* Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Mat 19:23-26 NAU)

B. The Spiritual Riches of the Poor:

Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. But many *who are* first will be last; and *the* last, first. (Mat 19:27-30 NAU)

IV. The Royal Law

A. Love your neighbor as yourself

B. The one who shows partiality commits sin & breaks the law