

CHAPTER 1

JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10 But the rich, in that he is

made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of

lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

19. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem

to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

CHAPTER 2

MY brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment

seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8. If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

14. What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye

warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when

she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

CHAPTER 3

MY brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

7 For every kind of beasts, and

of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

13. Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil

work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without

partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

There are three men mentioned in the New Testament named James. There is the apostle, the son of Zebedee and the brother of John; the second is an apostle, the son of Alphaeus; and the third is James, the brother of our Lord. James was the oldest brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55) and is commonly recognized as the writer of this epistle. He addresses his writings to the Jews who are scattered abroad. James was known as an unusually good man, and was surnamed “the Just” by his fellow men. He is said to have spent much time on his knees in prayer, and because of that they became calloused like the knees of camels. After Peter moved off the scene, James became the leader of the assembly at Jerusalem.

In chapter 1 faith and the trial of faith are again presented. It has often been said that one of the best tests of Christian maturity is tribulation. James tells us that a Christian should rejoice in the time of trials. You might ask how we can have joy in the midst of our troubles. James gives the answer in chapter 1, by showing the certainties the Christian has in the time of tribulation. In verses 1-12 James tells us that there is a purpose for all of these trials. We can be sure, in every situation and every trial that befalls us, that God does have a purpose for it. His main purpose is for the perfection of Christian character. God wants His children to be mature and able to face any situation. Trials produce patience, as we see in Romans 5:3, and patience produces indurance. The second thing we can be sure of during troubles is the goodness of God. Whatever trial or temptation may face us, we can be sure that God will be with us through these temptations, and will never give us a burden too heavy to bear. The third thing we can always be sure of in the time of temptation is the Word of God. The Word has the answers to all our problems. If we will read it and obey it, no matter what may befall us, we will come out the victors in every situation.

In chapter 2 James presents true Bible faith. James tells us that our faith is proven by love. He says if we have not faith then we will not practice the things of God, but if we have faith, then we are to

live like it in our daily lives.

Christians are known by the fruits they bear. True Christians have love one for another, love for God, and love for their fellow men. James also says that our faith is proven by works. We must not confuse works and grace, and here James is not contradicting Paul; but he simply says that if a person has Christ living within his life he will produce works of righteousness. Ephesians 2:8,9 shows us very definitely that we are saved by grace and not of works. But here James is saying that if we are in fact saved by grace, and if we do in fact have our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, then show Him some works. The world judges Christian people by the works they produce, and a Christian’s proof to the world of a genuine born-again experience is good works.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards” (Proverbs 29:11).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 35 (found on page 7).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

Words and Music by John H. Hopkins, 1820-1891

Each of the participants involved with Christ’s birth—Mary and Joseph, the innkeeper, the angels, shepherds, and wise men—has much to teach us.

Although there is no scriptural basis for stating dogmatically that there were three wise men, the fact that three distinct gifts are mentioned has given rise to this traditional idea. Master artists throughout the centuries have depicted three wise men on camels as one of their favorite nativity themes.

The number of wise men is not important, but the fact that they persisted in following the light that was given them until they found the object of their search, that they responded in worship, and that they returned home to share their experience with others—all has much to tell us. Also, the gifts presented

to the Christ-child were both significant and appropriate: gold, symbolic of His kingly reign; frankincense, symbolic of His priestly ministry; myrrh, symbolic of our redemption through His death. How important it is that our gifts of love and devotion be offered to Christ after we have first found Him and then have bowed in true adoration before Him.

The author and composer of this well-known Christmas hymn was an Episcopalian minister from Pennsylvania. John Hopkins has been credited with contributing much to the development of music in his denomination during the 19th century, writing a number of fine hymns and hymn tunes. One of his publications, *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, enjoyed four editions.

*We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.*

*Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship Him, God on high.*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom:
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia!*

Earth to heav' n replies.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

DELL HENDERSON

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1620

THE PILGRIMS LANDED.

WINTER BEGINS.

Another winter is upon us. Let us thank God for warm homes, warm beds, warm fires, and many provisions we have to keep us from the cold winter.

1795

ROBERT MOFFAT WAS BORN.

Robert Moffat was a great missionary. It is said that he cleared a way through the jungles of Africa.

An interesting story about Robert Moffat concerns a small country church. The old pastor had preached for a year without any visible results. The church

voted to ask for the pastor's resignation because of this bad record. The old pastor said in his closing words, "We have not had a good year. Of course, we did have wee Bobby Moffat come forward." No one, however, took this seriously. This wee Bobby Moffat became the great missionary to Africa who cleared the way through the jungles for the Gospel. This may have been the greatest year this church ever had. Let us pray today for missionaries in Africa. Perhaps, you know some by name. Ask God to bless them today.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1874

President Grant issued proclamation on violence in Mississippi.

1921

Death of P.B.S. Pinchback (84), major Reconstruction politician, Washington, D.C.

The Negro Renaissance, a period of extraordinary activity on the part of black artists and extraordinary receptivity on the part of the white public, reached a peak in the twenties. Among the writers who contributed to the movement were Claude McKay, *Harlem Shadows*, 1922; Jean Toomer, *Cane*, 1923; Alain Locke, *The New Negro*, 1925; Langston Hughes, *The Weary Blues*, 1926; Countee Cullen, *Color*, 1925.

Doctor of philosophy degrees awarded for first time to black women: Eva B. Dykes, English, Radcliffe; Sadie T. Mossell, Economics, University of Pennsylvania.; Georgiana R. Simpson, German, University of Chicago. Fifty-nine blacks were reported lynched in 1921.

Spingarn Medal awarded to actor Charles S. Gilpin for his performance in the title role of *Emperor Jones*.

1959

Citizens of Deerfield, Ill., authorized a plan which blocked building of interracial housing development. Spingarn Medal was presented to Edward Kennedy ("Duke") Ellington, composer, pianist and jazz pioneer, for his contributions to the arts.

Motown Records established by Berry Gordy Jr.

1972

Death of Horace Mann Bond (70), former president of Lincoln University (Pa.), in Atlanta.

Spingarn Medal awarded to Gordon B. Parks "in recognition of his unique creativity, as exemplified by his outstanding achievements as photographer, writer, film-maker and composer."

1976

Patricia R. Harris named secretary of housing and urban development by President-elect Carter.

Spingarn Medal presented to Alvin Ailey "in recognition of his international preeminence in the field of dance."

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 35 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

B. THE ERROR OF BEING SAVED BY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

() Titus 1:16

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

() Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

() John 10:9

I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

() John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

() Hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: