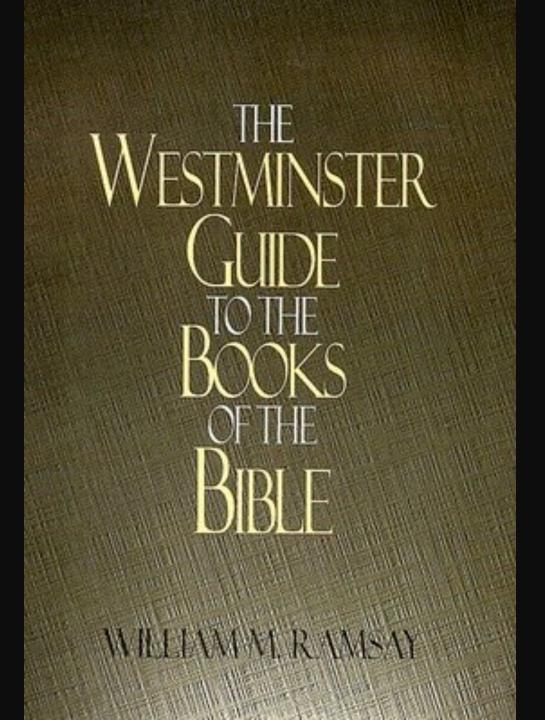
THE BOOK OF JAMES

The first of seven General Epistles.



> I am using this book today as a major point of reference. It is my late uncle's book.

Who wrote the book is very much in dispute.

There were many different men named 'James' in the New Testament.

It seems very unlikely that ANY of them was the author of this book!

We will have to set aside the question of the exact relationship between the author of James and our Lord Jesus Christ. That could be a whole other class topic in and of itself.



<u>Number 1: James the brother of John</u>, was the first to be martyred and therefore hardly had time to write the book.(Acts 12:2)

<u>Number 2: James the son of Alphaeus (Mark 3:18) was</u> one the twelve, but neither the Bible nor tradition indicates that he was a man of distinction.

<u>Number 3: James the Younger (Mark 16:1)</u> is perhaps the same as the James mentioned in Mark 15:40. We cannot exclude authorship; we do not know anything to indicate it was he that wrote the book.

<u>Number 4: James the father of Jude (Judas)(Luke 6:16)</u> could possibly be the same as one of these 'James'. We know nothing about him either.



- <u>Number 5: James the brother of Jesus</u> (Mark 6:3) is traditionally attributed as the author. It is partly on this basis that the book of James was finally accepted into the canon.
- But there is more to consider...

But there are reasons that make it seem unlikely that the tradition is accurate:

1) As late as the fourth century the Epistle of James was "considered spurious". If this letter had really been written by such a prominent figure such doubt would not have been there. 2) Language scholars tell us the earliest copies of James were written in polished, perfect Greek, not the dialect one would expect of the son of a Galilean carpenter. 3) The content of the letter shows no signs of being written by James the brother of Jesus and "Bishop of Jerusalem". 4) The discussion of faith and works in James 2:18-26 seems to reflect a relatively late time, when the ideas of Paul, misunderstood, had been circulating throughout the church.

Readers should read the Book of James with these points in mind:

- James reads more like Proverbs than a general letter. Like Proverbs, it is a full of moral imperatives. One scholar counted sixty of them in the 108 verses of James.
- There is no *kerygma* ("Good News") in James. There is only *paranaesis*-that is instructions.
- Martin Luther complained that the Book of James made a "jumble of things". And it is!
- It is difficult to give an outline of James due to the rambling, rapid change of subject. This is the same problem as in Proverbs.
- James might be better considered as a Wisdom book than an epistle.

So, without further ado, let's go to James chapter 1, verse one.

Perseverance (1:3) is a major theme of the book and Christian life today.

Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:3

There is some real encouragement in James!

EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM

ABOVE.

JAMES 1:17

Keep your anger level low...

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires for you. James 1:19-20

prayable



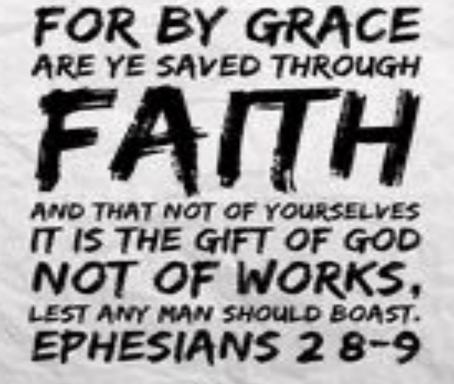
Yes, a man may say, You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

ames 2:18

FAITH AND WORKS...HOW ARE YOU SAVED?



Paul believed in salvation through faith alone....



Ah yes, the 'deadly' tongue... .James 3: 7-12.

FOR EVERY KIND OF BEAST AND BIRD, OF REPTILE AND SEA CREATURE, CAN BE TAMED AND HAS BEEN TAMED BY MANKIND, BUT

NO HUMAN BEING CAN TAME THE TONGUE.

IT IS A RESTLESS EVIL, FULL OF DEADLY POISON.

JAMES 3:7-8

Faithlife

Submit Yourselves to God. James 4:1-3.

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WHAT CAUSES CONFLICTS AND QUARRELS AMONG YOU? DON'T THEY COME FROM THE PASSIONS AT

WAR WITHIN YOU?

- JAMES 4:1

James 4:7-8





and he will FLEE from you.

James 4:7

Knowing-Jesus.com

Patience in suffering (and no swearing!) James 5:7-12

Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. -James 5:12-

O heartlight.org

Elders should pray over the sick. **James 5:14**

JAMES 5:14 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"

J.hackney pictures with scriptures

Final thoughts on an unusual book in Scripture...



Upcoming dates:

- Today: James
- February 22: 1 & 2 Peter
- February 29: 1, 2 & 3 John (Jude?)
- March 7 Revelation (First Session)
- March 14 Patio Sale- No Class
- March 21 Revelation (Second) Session ?)

Questions?

Comments?



Your favorite verses?