





2. Remember that James was writing to a Jewish audience that was dispersed abroad. These were Christians living in the pagan villages and cities. James is going to take them back to their roots. Read the following passages and note what they should have known about this “royal law.”

- a. Mark 12:28-31 (cf Leviticus 19:18)

- b. Romans 13:8-10

- c. James 2:1-13

3. If these Jews were now Christians were they still bound to the laws of the Old Testament? There are many that say we are under grace and the law no longer applies to us therefore we are free to live how ever we want. Think about these questions and read the following verses and record what you observe as you look for answers.

- a. Romans 7:1-6

- b. Matthew 5:17-20

- c. Romans 6:1-2, 12-13

- d. Romans 8:3-4

e. Jude 4

4. In James 2:12 speaks of being judges by the law of liberty. He tells his readers to speak and act accordingly as someone who will be judged by that law. James is the only writer in the Bible that uses this reference. Let's take a look at a couple of other passages that may help us understand what this means to us today.

- a. John 8:31-32

- b. John 12:47-48 (notice what judges the man and how that may apply to James)

- c. James 1:25

5. Is God partial? Does He show partiality toward the rich? The poor? Those with position and power? The downtrodden and destitute?

- a. Leviticus 19:15

- b. Deuteronomy 1:17

- c. Deuteronomy 16:18-20

d. Psalm 82:1-4

e. Jeremiah 7:4-7

f. Ezekiel 22:29-31

g. Zechariah 7:8-14

h. Acts 10:34

i. Romans 2:11

j. Ephesians 6:9

k. Colossians 3:23-25



## DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

Now we are going to turn our attention to the heart of this chapter. We are going to delve into James 2:14-26. You have two days to pour over these precious verses. Don't rush this assignment and spend plenty of time in prayer examining your life! They are vitally important to each of our lives. For some it will encourage you and prove that you are in the faith. For others, it may reveal that what you have been clinging to is merely worthless religion. What about you? Do you have a faith that's real? If so what is the proof? If you can't point to the proof, you may need to go back and ask that question again. A true faith has proof, works, and Scripture tells you exactly what that is going to look like in your day to day life. Paul tells you that you are to "test yourselves to see if you are in the faith," II Corinthians 13:5. James warned about worthless religion back in James 1:25-27, and it will be a theme throughout his letter.

1. Read James 2:14-26 and write down the main focus of these verses.
2. He opens this portion of the letter with two questions in verse 14. What are they?
3. When he asks the question, "Can that faith save him?" What kind of faith is he referring to?
4. As you read 2:14-26, is there a key repeated phrase throughout the verses?
5. James presents an example in verses 15-16. How does this example relate to the rest of the passage?
6. According to James, faith that has no works is what?
  - a. How many times does he use that expression in verses 14-26?
  - b. What do you think he means by that expression?

7. How many times does James use the words “show” and “see” in this passage? Do you think that is significant? Why or why not?

James makes the bold statement that “Faith without works is dead.” Do other portions of Scripture support that claim? Let’s take a look at some of those passages. God may reveal some things about yourself that you are not going to like. If you are God’s child, don’t run from truth. His truth is what cleanses us and transforms our mind so we can become more like Him. The weak and the foolish run from the chastisement of our loving heavenly Father.

8. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and answer these questions.
  - a. How is a man saved?
  - b. Do works have any part of bringing a person to salvation?
9. Read Romans 6:4. How does newness of life relate to a faith without works?
10. Read II Corinthians 5:17. Do you see any parallels to the verses we have already looked at and what James has said in his letter?
11. Read Galatians 5:19-21. What happens to those who practice these things? The verb practice is in the present tense which means that you keep on doing it, it is a continuous or habitual lifestyle.



12. Compare Ephesians 5:3-6 with Galatians 5:19-21. How do they relate to the topic at hand?
  
13. One last passage. Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. Record how these verses apply.
  
14. What insights have these passages given you on James 2:14-26. Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider that question and record what you have learned.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. Take time to take all this before the Lord. Ask Him to search your heart and show you areas in your life that needs to be changed. If these verses have shown you that your faith is dead, that you have no works to back up what you believe, fall on your knees before the King of Heaven and ask Him to become King of you life. Allow Jesus to become your LORD (Master) and Savior and allow Him to begin directing your steps so that you begin doing the works that He has prepared for you.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. James 2 is such a powerful chapter. Why not read through it once more before calling in quits for the day. As you do, look for portions to memorize and carry with you each and every day. Write down the verses you want to memorize.

