

The Epistle of James: Living One's Faith

- Living One's Faith is an excellent approach to the letter
- This includes:
 - Living my faith in the midst of trials from without and temptations from within
 - Living my faith in relation to the word of God
 - Living my faith in relation to our fellow man
 - Living my faith by understanding that pleasing faith works obedience
 - Living my faith in relation to the use of our tongues
 - Living my faith in relation to the world
 - Living my faith in prayer and compassion




The Epistle of James: Living One's Faith

- Living my faith starts with
 - The right relationship with God which is only through Jesus Christ
 - The righteousness of God which is by faith
- Living my faith requires
 - The right attitudes
- Living my faith is seen in
 - My words
 - My deeds
- As we go through this letter, take intermittent attitude checks



Last Week (May 21)

- Sometimes we want to blame others for our sin. But I am the one to blame for my sin.
 - We need to look honestly at our own desires.
 - Colossians 3:5
 - When an evil thought enters my mind, I need to recognize it and purge it. I must neither harbor nor entertain it.
 - In order to be taught of God we must be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath
 - We have great individual responsibility to make application of the word of God in our own lives
 - One's religion is useless if he does not bridle his tongue
 - True religion involves practicing good toward others and keeping myself pure and undefiled
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Living my faith requires...

- Bridling my tongue
 - It is possible to think we are religious when we are not
- “Visit orphans and widows in their trouble”
 - Good deeds toward those in need
- Keeping myself unspotted from the world



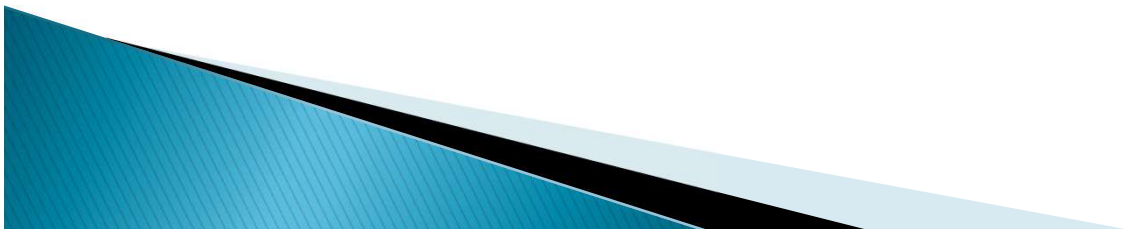
Living my faith without partiality

- Partiality = “to receive face”
- God shows no partiality; neither should we
 - Acts 10:34-35
- Errors involved
 - Shown partiality
 - Become judges with evil thoughts
 - Dishonored the poor man



Living my faith by fulfilling the law

- Royal law = kingly
- The law is meant to be fulfilled or followed
- Cannot ignore part of the law
- Not innocent because you cite the portion of the law that you do keep
- Cannot pass judgment on laws of God and say this one is essential and this one is not
- If only keep laws of which you approve or that make sense to you, then you have rejected the will of God and substituted your own will
- *Attitude: We want to know and to keep all the law*



Living my faith by showing mercy

- Mercy = pity for those in distress
 - Matthew 5:7
 - Matthew 25:41-45
 - Matthew 18:23-35
- *Attitude: Merciful toward others*



Living my faith involves works of obedience

- Living my faith is more than an attitude or disposition
- Living my faith is more than simple belief
- Living my faith involves works of obedience
- Faith + Works → Justification



Living my faith involves works of obedience

- Do James and Paul contradict?
- Romans 4:1-6
 - Justified apart from works
- James 2:14-26
 - No justification without works
- Paul discussing works excluded from God's plan of salvation – works that one might glory in, including works of the Law of Moses
- James discussing works included – obedience to the commands of God
 - Acts 10:34-35
 - 1 John 2:4



Living my faith involves works of obedience

- A real-life example – v.15-16
 - Matthew 25:37-40, 41-45
 - 1 John 3:17-18
- The demons believe...and tremble
 - Luke 4:41
- Two Old Testament examples
 - Abraham offering Isaac
 - Rahab receiving the spies and sending them out



Take-aways

- We must think differently than the world and not show partiality
- All of God's law must be important to us
- Just as we are exhorted to be doers and not hearers only, we must be reminded that it is not enough to just believe.
- Pleasing faith obeys the commands of God, even when
 - They are difficult
 - Do not fit our reasoning
- Pleasing faith accepts God at His word and obeys
- Faith without works is lifeless and fruitless
- Any doctrine that teaches justification by "faith alone" is false and completely opposed to the inspired word

