

April 18, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 5:19-20

“Win the Wanderer!”

See Outline of James

XVI. Win the Wanderer! (5:19-20)
A. The People

B. The Problem

C. The Process

D. The Promise

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Look over the **outline** of the whole book of James from Pastor Paul. What are some of the biggest lessons you have learned from this book? How specifically has your life changed? Which lesson from James do you have the greatest difficulty applying in a consistent manner?
2. Read **James 5:19-20**. Many say that the book ends abruptly. Why do you think James ends it this way? What point is he making? How do the last two verses connect with the whole book of James?
3. Are there any connections between James 5:14-18 and James 5:19-20?
4. When James calls the people “My brethren,” is that a guarantee that they are all **genuinely saved**? What are some reasons that people might believe they are going to heaven when they aren’t? What passages of Scripture warn us that professing believers might not be genuine believers? (See Mt. 7:15-23 to get started.)
5. Does James 5:19-20 refer to a wayward person who is lost or who is saved? Could it apply to both?
6. What does it mean to “stray” from something? What are some ways that a person might stray from the truth? Is it possible to stray from the truth and not believe that you have strayed from the truth? Is there a connection between straying from the truth and the “error” of a sinner’s way? What is implied by the word “way”? Is that a one-time bad choice or is it something more than that?
7. Read Genesis 4:9. How would you answer Cain’s question biblically? What New Testament passages tell us that we have responsibilities toward other members of the body of Christ? What specific responsibility is in James 5:19-20? Is this only the responsibility of the pastors / elders?
8. What process does James describe for winning back a wayward person? What specific steps would you take to go after a wayward church member (or attender) and win them back?
9. What excuses might a professing believer make as to why they won’t pursue a wayward person in order to win them back? How would you answer those excuses biblically?
10. What promises does James give in verse 20? What kind of “death” is James talking about? What does it mean to cover a multitude of sins? How do those promises motivate you to fulfill your obligation toward wayward people?
11. **Finish Memorizing James (word for word)**. Deadline to finish is the end of April 2021. Pastor Paul will be taking everyone who memorized the whole book of James out for a very nice dinner to celebrate (date to be determined).

Outline of James – Pastor Paul S. Brown

I. **Prescript (1:1)**

- A. Sender: “James” (Jacob) – ½ brother of Jesus
- B. Recipients: “to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad”
- C. Salutation: “Greetings” = Rejoice!

II. **Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)**

- A. Develop a Heavenly Attitude (2-4)
 - 1. Consider (2)
 - 2. Knowing (3)
 - 3. Let it have (4)
- B. Seek Heavenly Wisdom (5-8)
 - 1. The Process (5)
 - a. Recognize (5a)
 - b. Request (5b-c)
 - c. Receive (5d)
 - 2. The Problem (6-8)
 - a. Commanded (6a)
 - b. Illustrated (6b)
 - c. Commanded (7-8)
- C. Apply a Heavenly Perspective (9-11)
 - 1. Commanded (9-10a)
 - a. Poor man
 - b. Rich man
 - 2. Illustrated (10b-11)
 - a. Falling flower
 - b. Fading rich man
- D. Look to the Heavenly Reward (12-15)
 - 1. In Trials (12)
 - a. Perseverance
 - b. Prize
 - 2. In Temptations (13-15)
 - a. Perspective
 - b. Proof
 - c. Problem
 - d. Process

III. **Stop Being Misled (1:16-18)**

- A. Stop Believing Deception (16)
- B. Start Believing the Truth (17-18)
 - 1. About God’s Gifts (17a)
 - 2. About God’s Nature (17b)
 - 3. About God’s Gift of Salvation (18)

IV. **Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)**

- A. Reception (19-21)
- B. Action (22-25)
 - 1. Exhortation (22)
 - 2. Example #1: Negative (23-24)
 - 3. Example #2: Positive (25)
- C. Transformation (26-27)
 - a. Worthless Religion – putrid heart (26)
 - a. False Proclamation (26a)
 - b. No Transformation (26b)

- c. Eternal Damnation (26c)
- b. Worthwhile Religion – pure heart (27)
 - a. God’s Proclamation (27a)
 - b. Genuine Transformation (26-27)
 - 1) Controlled Tongue (26b)
 - 2) Compassionate Heart (27b)
 - 3) Clean Life (27c)
 - c. Eternal Salvation

V. Stop the Sin of Partiality (2:1-13)

- A. Reproof (2:1-4)
 - 1. Exhortation (1)
 - 2. Illustration (2-3)
 - 3. Application (4)
- B. Reasons (5-13)
 - a. Contrary to God’s Kingdom (5)
 - b. Contrary to Present Reality (6-7)
 - c. Contrary to God’s Law (8-11)
 - d. Contrary to Genuine Faith: Salvation & Coming Judgment (12-13)

VI. Is Your Faith Dead or Alive? (2:14-26)

- 1. Paul and James agree that justification (being declared righteous by God) is by faith alone (Gal. 2:9-10; Acts 15:21-29).
- 2. Paul and James agree that genuine faith results in works (Gal. 5:16; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 1:16; 2:7; 3:8; James 1:26-27; 2:1ff).
- 3. Paul and James supplement one another. Paul says, “Faith PLUS works will not save” (Rom. 3:20-22; 4:1-10). James says, “Faith WITHOUT works will not save” (James 2:14-17). Paul is saying that salvation is only by grace. James is saying that salvation only by grace produces works. Paul is defending against the Legalist. James is defending against the Libertine.

- A. Dead Faith (14-20)
 - 1. Empty Profession of Faith (14-17)
 - a. Proposition (14)
 - b. Illustration (15-16)
 - c. Application (17)
 - 2. Hollow (dead) Orthodoxy (18-20)
 - a. Proposition (18)
 - b. Illustration (19)
 - c. Application (20)
- B. Living Faith (21-26)

RCC: Faith + works = justification
 Protestants: Faith = justification + works

Justification	Sanctification
<i>Imputes</i> Christ’s righteousness (Rom. 4:11b)	<i>Imparts</i> Christ’s righteousness (Rom. 6:1-7; 8:11-14)
External: changes our <i>standing</i> (Rom. 5:1-2)	Internal: changes our <i>state</i> (Rom. 6:19)
One-time <i>event</i>	<i>Process</i>
Frees from <i>guilt</i> of sin	Frees from <i>pollution</i> of sin
Surrender the <i>principle</i> of sin & self-rule	Relinquish the <i>practice</i> of specific sins

- 1. Abraham (21-24)
- 2. Rahab (25-26)

VII. Guard Your Tongue! (3:1-12)

- A. Your Tongue Denounces You (1-2)
- B. Your Tongue Directs You (3-5a)
- C. Your Tongue Defiles You (5b-6)
- D. Your Tongue Defies You (7-8)
- E. Your Tongue Defines You (9-12)

VIII. Show Me God's Wisdom (3:13-18)

- A. The Question (13a)
 - 1. What? "Let him show"; "Start showing"
 - 2. How?
 - a. Deeds
 - b. Good behavior
- B. The Command (13b)
- C. The Contrast (14-18)
 - 1. Wisdom from Below (14-16)
 - a. The Heart (14)
 - 1) Bitter jealousy
 - 2) Selfish ambition
 - 3) Arrogance
 - 4) Lies / Deception / Hypocrisy
 - b. The Home (15)
 - 1) Earthly
 - 2) Natural
 - 3) Demonic
 - c. The Harvest (16)
 - 1) Disorder
 - 2) Every evil thing
 - 2. Wisdom from Above (17-18)
 - a. The Home (17)
 - b. The Heart (17)
 - 1) Primary Characteristic: First pure
 - 2) Secondary Characteristics:
 - a) Peaceable
 - b) Gentle
 - c) Reasonable
 - d) Full of mercy
 - e) Full of good fruits
 - f) Unwavering
 - g) Without hypocrisy
 - c. The Harvest (18)
 - 1) Righteousness
 - 2) Peace

IX. Be A True Friend of God (4:1-10)

- A. The Earthly Problem (1-5)
 - 1. Q & A #1 (1-3) – Battle with yourself
 - 2. Q & A #2 (4) – Battle with God
 - 3. Q & A #3 (5) – Battle with the Spirit
 - ❖ Pastor Paul's paraphrase: "The Holy Spirit whom God gave to us in the New Covenant, is moved with deep emotions as He longs with intense jealousy for us to be 100% devoted to God."
- B. The Heavenly Solution (6-10)
 - 1. God's Provision (6)

- a. The Contrast (6a)
- b. The Condition (6b)
- 2. Man's Response (7-10) – Hortatory Peak (10 commands – cp. 1 Peter 5:5-9)
 - a. Core command (7a) – “Submit therefore to God.”
 - b. Complementary commands (7b-9) – Three Couplets
 - 1) Association (7b-8a)
 - 2) Sanctification (8b-c)
 - 3) Emotion (9)
 - c. Core command & promise (10)

X. Who Do You Think You Are Judging Your Neighbor? (4:11-12)

- A. What (11a-b)
 - 1. Do not speak against [*Stop speaking against*] one another (11a)
 - 2. Do not judge your brother (11b)
- B. How
 - 1. What James is NOT prohibiting (when it's right to judge)
 - a. Civil government to judge criminals – Rom. 13
 - b. All believers to judge the sinful attitudes, words, and actions of other Christians as a part of the biblical process of church discipline – Mt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:12
 - c. Church leadership judging disputes and disagreements between believers in the church (1 Cor. 6:1ff).
 - d. All believers are to judge the doctrine of teachers against Scripture – Mt. 7:15ff; 2 Pet.; Jude; Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:20f
 - e. In preparation for the Lord's Supper, all believers should judge their own thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions – 1 Cor. 11:28ff
 - 2. What James IS prohibiting (when it's wrong to judge) – Mt. 7:1-5; Rom. 2:1-3
 - a. Rushing to judgment based on legalistic rules – John 7:24
 - b. Judging the genuineness of the faith of others (assuming they understand and embrace a truly biblical Gospel – Mt. 13:24ff
 - c. Judging the motives of others' hearts – 1 Cor. 4:3-6
 - d. Judging the decision of others regarding opinions or issues of conscience – Rom. 14:3ff
- C. Why (11b-12)
 - 1. Loved ones (11)
 - 2. Law (11)
 - 3. Lawgiver (12)

XI. Do Not Plan Presumptuously OR Stop Living Like Practical Atheists (4:13-17)

- A. What You Shouldn't Say (13-14)
- B. What You Should Say (15-16)
- C. Why You Should Say It (17)

XII. Wicked Wealthy: Wake Up and Weep! (5:1-6)

- A. Who (1)
- B. What (1)
 - 1. Wake up!
 - 2. Weep while wailing!
 - 3. Wretchedness is coming!
- C. Why (2-6)
 - 1. Hoarding (2-3)
 - 2. Fraud (4)
 - 3. Self-indulgence (5)
 - 4. Injustice (6)

XIII. Here Comes the Judge! OR Be Patient: The Lord is Coming! (5:7-11)

- A. Wait patiently for the Lord's justice when He comes (7)

1. Exhortation
2. Illustration
- B. Strengthen your convictions regarding the imminent return of Jesus (8)
- C. Speak graciously to one another, the Judge is here (9)
- D. Be encouraged by the godly example of others who persevered (10-11)
 1. Prophets
 2. Job

XIV. Stop Sinful Swearing & Speak Sincerely (5:12)

- A. Who
- B. What
 1. Negative Command
 2. Positive Command
- C. Why

XV. Keep on Praying & Praising! (5:13-18)

- A. Universally (13)
 1. Trouble
 2. Triumph
- B. Specifically (14-18)
 1. Diagnosis (14a)
 2. Prescription (14b)
 3. Prognosis (15-18)
 - a. Instruction (15)
 - b. Exhortation (16)
 - c. Illustration (17-18)

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