

James Schedule

This class will attempt to identify and explain the principles and precepts found in this NT letter from James. We will also discuss how we can apply these early Christian concepts to our individual lives. Many have called James' sermon "The Proverbs of the New Testament." While there is truth in the statement, & creating an outline of the book has difficulties, we will attempt to trace a main theme throughout the work. Here is a suggestion in brief: James is using the language of Jesus (primarily the so-called "Sermon on the Mount") to emphasize what true genuine faith will look like regarding a variety of subjects.

To prepare for class, the main task will be to read James repeatedly throughout these next three months. Please also make time to evaluate the questions provided & create thoughtful responses. Looking forward to analyzing & applying this divine text with you!

Oct 9	1) Intro to James	What Is Real Faith?
Oct 16	2) James 1:1-11	Trials, Wisdom, Wealth
Oct 23	3) James 1:12-27	Tests, Speech, Pure Religion
Oct 30	4) James 2:1-13	No Partiality, Prejudice
Nov 6	5) James 2:14-26	Not by Faith Alone
Nov 13	6) James 3:1-12	No Uncontrolled Speech
Nov 20	7) James 3:13-18	No Jealousy & Selfish Ambition
Nov 27	8) James 4:1-12	Not Proud & Prayerless
Dec 4	9) James 4:13-17	No Profit Without God
Dec 11	10) James 5:1-12	No Mistreating the Poor
Dec 18	11) TBA or Catch-Up Session	
Dec 25	12) James 5:13-20	Pray for Healing
Jan 1	13) Overview of James	

Oct 9 1) Intro to James What Is Real Faith?

Read an intro, read the book, &/or watch an overview of the book.

1) What do we know about the author?

2) What do we know about the date?

3) Who might the audience be?

4) What is the overall theme?

5) What are some recommended outlines?

6) What is your favorite part of James?

7) What do you think is the most mis-understood part?

Oct 16 2) James 1:1-11 Trials, Wisdom, Wealth

1) What is the overall biblical view of trials? Does James fit this?

2) How does James say we should get wisdom?

3) What clarification does he add to this command?

4) How does James address wealth in this first section?

5) What does James mean saying in v4 “you may be perfect.”?

6) What OT verses may be the basis of James wording in v10-11?

Oct 23 3) James 1:12-27 Tests, Speech, Pure Religion

1) What other NT verses endorse James' view of tests or trials?

2) Is God the reason for our temptations? What might this imply?

3) Who is the source of our gifts? What does "no variation" mean?

4) What does James say about speaking & listening?

5) How does he connect anger & meekness to this wisdom?

6) What is the perfect law of liberty? Are we supposed to do it?

7) How does James define pure & undefiled religion?

Oct 30 4) James 2:1-13 No Partiality, Prejudice

1) What does James say not to show? What is the context here?

2) What is the word behind “assembly” in v2?

3) What type of judging does James forbid in v4?

4) Who has God often shown concern for according to v5?

5) What is the royal law in v8? Are we supposed to do it?

6) What does James mean in v10?

7) How will we be judged? How should that impact our judging others?

Nov 6 5) James 2:14-26 Not by Faith Alone

1) What does James say should accompany biblical faith?

2) Are the principles of v14-18 limited to treatment of brothers & sisters?

3) What does v19 tell us about demons & belief in God?

4) What two OT examples does James use as illustrations?

5) Why was Abraham's faith "perfected"?

6) What does he mean by the analogy in v26?

Nov 13 6) James 3:1-12 No Uncontrolled Speech

1) Why does James caution against becoming teachers?

2) What does James say would make a perfect man?

3) What is the meaning of the two analogies in v3-4?

4) In what ways does James say our tongues are like fire & animals?

5) What should be the goal for our tongues according to v10-12?

6) What does Jesus say about speech in Matthew 12:36-37?

Nov 20 7) James 3:13-18 No Jealousy & Selfish Ambition

1) How can we tell if someone is wise & understanding?

2) What does the meekness of wisdom in v13 mean?

3) What attitudes of the heart does James forbid in v14?

4) How does James describe those who boast?

5) What will be the result of jealousy & selfish ambition?

6) How can we tell if someone has wisdom from above?

7) What does “sowing” to see a “harvest of righteousness” mean?

Nov 27 8) James 4:1-12 Not Proud & Prayerless

1) What passions caused their quarrels & fights?

2) Assuming “asking” is prayer, why did God not answer them?

3) What does James say about being “friends of the world”?

4) What are the scriptures behind v5 & 6?

5) To draw near to God, what attitudes must we adopt?

6) How does James say we can be guilty of “judging the law”?

Dec 4

9) James 4:13-17

No Profit Without God

1) How does James caution about making a profit? Is it sinful?

2) How does James caution about making plans? Is it sinful?

3) Where else in scripture is life likened to a vapor or mist?

4) Does saying “the Lord wills” guarantee we will have success?

5) What does James say about boasting?

6) What are we doing when we fail to do what we know is right?

Dec 11 10) James 5:1-12 No Mistreating the Poor

1) Who is James addressing beginning in v1? Are they fellow saints?

2) How does James describe their approach to paying wages?

3) How does James describe their life of luxury?

4) What does James tell the brothers to do in v7?

5) What does James say about grumbling against one another?

6) What OT example does James appeal to & how were they steadfast?

7) What is the command in v12 & what NT verses are similar?

Dec 18 11) TBA or Catch-Up Session

Dec 25 12) James 5:13-20 Pray for Healing

1) What do you think James meant in v14? Does v15 impact the context?

2) What does James say about confessing sins in v16?

3) How then should we implement the commands of this verse?

4) What OT example of prayer does James appeal to & why?

5) What does v19-20 say about the possibility to “wander from the truth”?

6) How does James’ conclusion encourage us to “bring back sinners”?

Jan 1 12) Overview of James

1) What do you love about James?

2) What do you find difficult about James?

3) What's something new you learned studying James this time?

4) Do you feel like James is neglected? What evidence would you point to?

5) How would you summarize James in 10 words or less?