



James in Review II

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: To Review our Study through the Book of James.

Read James 2:1 – 2:4 – Why does a Person get our Attention?

- We are to not show partiality as Believers!
- If the Great Commission is inclusive to all people, who are we to be exclusive? Whether based on financial means as James mentions, race or educational accomplishment – or any other “group” that the world comes up with, who are we to defy the Great Commission?
- When it comes to our relationship building in the Church, we cannot cater to the wealthy, gifted or influential person at the expense of our energy being limited for the poor, limited and non-influential person.
- The moment we “make distinctions” as James puts it – we open ourselves up to a sinful and evil mindset that favors one more than another.

Read James 2:18 – 2:19 – Faith is More than a Profession!

- We enter in to our reading of two potentially controversial verses – controversial in the sense that there is a powerful contrasting, that a claim of belief is not a justification of faith – why? “Even the demons believe – and shudder!
- Just professing that God is God, does not justify our faith – every knee will bow and every tongue will confess! Faith will produce faithful works – simply because true faith will not allow us to not grow and bear fruit!

Read James 3:17 – 3:18 – The Pure Wisdom from Above!

- James after highlighting the problem with worldly wisdom and ambition, now makes a clear statement in his teaching – “wisdom from above is first pure” – basically, wisdom from God is Pure, as God is Pure and Wisdom received from Him will not be self-centered!
- When we consider wisdom and a lifestyle that accords peace, reason, mercy and the bearing of good Godly Fruit, we can consider what it means to have wisdom from above!
- Do we long for a harvest of righteousness? Do we wish to see God Fully Glorified in all we do? Then we ought to commit ourselves to rejecting worldly wisdom as the foundation and basis of our lives and identities, while we pursue the Wisdom from Above! Wisdom that is Pure!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Have you ever caught yourself showing favor or being partial to a person due to their status, influence or financial well-being? If so, what was the reason for your actions?

- While there is nothing wrong with seeking the assistance of those who are able to give generously to the Work of the Gospel – it is wrong and sinful to give them a “seat of honor” in response to their giving. We need to show no partiality whether someone is giving the “Widow’s mite” or millions!
- The partiality that can be shown due to the visibility of a person has examples of promoting people into the work of the ministry before their time. For example, a musician, athlete or public figure “finds Christ”, then are thrust into ministry without training, testing or accountability – their popularity becomes dangerous as they are not grounded and lack sound doctrine.

Question 2: Do you understand that a “sinner’s prayer” alone is not evidence of faith?

- James as we learned earlier, uses the powerful example that a profession alone is not evidence of faith – he points out that even the demons believe and shudder!
- James is much in line with what we learn from Paul in Philippians 2 – “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”
- Just speaking the truth, does not mean you are living the truth nor are a part of the Truth!

Question 3: Do you understand why James calls the Wisdom from Above, Pure?

- As we read these verses, we can see the view of a Godly Wisdom that comes from above. Wisdom grounded in fruit of God’s Presence – purity, peace, gentleness, mercy and impartiality to name a few. This is in stark contrast to our own wisdom gained through the world.

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data