

# **TRUE FAITH WORKS**

(06/21/2020; James 1:1-5:20; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

**Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in midst of trials, persevering in actions, attitudes, speech and relationships, causing believers to not only hear the Word of God, but practice the Word of God, all for their good as a body of believers and God's eternal glory!**

## **I. BACKGROUND OF JAMES – (James 1:1)**

- A. What are the critical details?
  - 1. Why go through the book of James?
  - 2. Who wrote the book of James and when?
  - 3. What prompted James to write this letter?
  
- B. What is this letter all about?

## **II. CONTENT OF JAMES – (James 1:2-5:20)**

- A. Context of James – (James 1:2-27)
  - 1. Divine Purpose of Trials – (vv.2-12)
  - 2. Godly Response to Trials – (vv.13-27)
  
- B. Content of James – (James 2:1-4:10)
  - 1. Love Brethren Impartially – (2:1-26)
  - 2. Bridle Tongue Consistently – (3:1-18)
  - 3. Reject Worldliness Completely – (4:1-10)
  
- C. Community in James – (James 4:11-5:20)
  - 1. “One Another” Commands – (4:11-5:12)
  - 2. Closing Specific Applications – (5:13-20)

## **III. APPLICATION OF JAMES**

- A. Evaluate Your Life – How am I doing?
  
- B. Ask Yourself – Does My Faith Work?

# **A FAITH THAT WORKS**

(James Overview; Summer 2020; Wes Pastor; Modified by Steve Thiel)

## **Background of James (Who wrote it, when, where, and to whom?)**

The book appears to be written by James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21) sometime before the Jerusalem Council; written to Jewish believers dispersed from Jerusalem due to persecution (Acts 8:1-4, 11:19).

## **Occasion of James (What prompted James to write this letter?)**

The persecution and displacement of Jewish believers seems to have caused a host of problems including impartiality between rich and poor and general worldliness.

## **Purpose of James (What did James hope to accomplish?)**

The purpose of James' letter is to encourage believers to persevere in the midst of trials and to clarify that true faith doesn't just hear but practices the Word of God.

## **Theme of James (What is the letter about?)**

True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in midst of trials, persevering in actions, attitudes, speech and relationships, causing believers to not only hear the Word, but practice the Word, for their good and God's eternal glory!

## **Outline of James**

### **I. True Faith Understands Trials (1:1-27)**

- A. Divine Purpose of Trials (1:1-12)
- B. General Godliness in Trials (1:13-25)
  - 1. Not blaming God (1:13-18)
  - 2. But listening to God (1:19-25)
- C. Summary of Godliness in Trials (1:26-27)

### **II. True Faith Works in Trials (2:1-4:10)**

- A. Love Brethren Impartially (2:1-26)
  - 1. Sin of partiality (2:1-13)
  - 2. Righteousness of a faith that works (2:14-26)
- B. Bridle Tongue Consistently (3:1-18)
  - 1. Sin of evil speech (3:1-12)
  - 2. Righteousness of heavenly wisdom (3:13-18)
- C. Reject Worldliness Completely (4:1-10)
  - 1. Sin of worldliness (4:1-5)
  - 2. Righteousness of true humility (4:6-10)

### **III. True Faith Perseveres in Trials (4:11-5:20)**

- A. Practices of True Faith (4:11-5:12)
  - 1. Not speaking evil against one another (4:11-12)
  - 2. Not presuming on the future (4:13-17)
  - 3. Not oppressing one another (5:1-6)
  - 4. Not being impatient with one another (5:7-11)
  - 5. Not lying to one another (5:12)
- B. Priorities of True Faith (5:13-20)
  - 1. Pray fervently when suffering (5:13a)
  - 2. Sing praises when cheerful (5:13b)
  - 3. Call elders when spiritually sick (5:14-20)