

Brentwood Bible Fellowship  
Reading thru the New Testament  
2017

Week 13

The Books of Galatians and James  
Galatians 4-6, James 1-2

Suggested Weekly Memory Verse: James 1:22

*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

*James 1:22*

*NAS Version*

March 27 - April 2

Monday - Galatians 4 - We are adopted as Sons of God, no longer slaves

Tuesday - Galatians 5 - Free at Last

Wednesday - Galatians 6 - In your freedom, care for others

Thursday - James 1 - The testing of our faith

Friday - James 2 - Faith without the evidence of works is dead faith

Saturday - Review

Sunday – Review

Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

## **Galatians 4-6; James 1-2**

### **Week Thirteen**

#### **Galatians 4 We are adopted as sons of God, we are no longer slaves.**

1. Galatians 4:1-3 The comparison of a Son of God verses a slave of the law.

The picture here is that before Christ came, the Jews and gentiles were both like little children, or infants under the domination of the law or, for the pagans, under the teaching of their pagan beliefs.

2. Everything changed when God sent Jesus. (Galatians 4:4)

God's timing is always right. The fullness of time means God's perfect timing. It was the right time for Jesus to come. It was God's ordained time for the Messiah. The law had done its work. The Roman Empire was the perfect environment for the coming of Jesus, the beginning of Christianity and the spreading of the gospel. This was God's perfect, chosen time for the coming of Christ and the birth of the church. Notice, Jesus was not only sent as a representative of the Father but He came to earth be the perfect man born of woman.

Jesus was under the Dispensation of the Law until He went to the cross. The age of grace or Dispensation of Grace followed the Dispensation of the Law.

3. According to verses 5-6 what was the purpose of Christ coming to the earth?

What does redeem mean?

Abba was a term of affectionate fondness for a father.

4. How was a slave different from a son?  
Note the comparison of the two in verse 7.
5. What else might we see in verses 6 and 7 that identifies our sonship?
6. What is Paul's primary point in verses 8-11? Could the problem mentioned in these verses be a problem for the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How?

Paul takes the opportunity in verses 12-20 to discuss his own past and present relationship with the gentiles.

7. According to verses 12-14, what was Paul's physical condition when he first met the Galatians and how did they respond to him?
8. How does Paul feel the attitude of the Galatians has changed since he first met them? Why? ( Galatians 4:15-20)

Paul now returns to his topic of sonship, which he was discussing previously in the chapter.

9. Explain verses 21-23.  
     The Bondwoman was Hagar  
     The Free woman was Sarah
10. Describe the place of Hagar according to Paul in verses 24-25.
11. Sarah represents Jerusalem in verses 25-27. What does Sarah and her son Isaac represent according to verses 26-27?
12. Who does Paul say the Galatians were according to verses 28 and 30?  
  
     What does the bondwoman represent? What does Paul say they should do to the bondwoman? (Galatians 4:29-30)

## **Galatians 5 Free at Last!**

1. Galatians 5:1 is a key verse. We are no longer under the bondage of the law. We are no longer under the bondage of legalism.

What does verse 1 mean to you personally?

Take a few minutes to thank God for your freedoms.

2. According to Paul, what was the problem of circumcision or legalism according to verses 2-4? This is a very important statement for us as Christians.
3. What is the important message of verses 5-6?
4. Galatians 5:7-10 According to verse 9, what might we say is the concern for all churches?
5. How is the cross of Christ a stumbling block according to verses 11-12? Paul makes a pretty tough statement in these verses. Paul does not hold back.

6. Verse 13 is another very key verse in this passage.  
 What is the negative which Paul tells his readers to refrain from doing? Why is this important?  
 What is the positive command in verse 13?  
 Why is this important in relationship to our freedom?
7. Verse 14, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself!” This is from Leviticus 19:18, it is also the second half of the Great commandment in the gospels. (Matthew 22:39) James calls it the Royal law. (James 2:8) How does this phrase fulfill the whole law? How is it related to our freedoms?
8. What is the concern in verse 15? How can this concern in verse 15 negate the command in verse 14?
9. Explain the truth presented in verses 16-17. How can a person practically walk by the Spirit? What is the promise if we walk by the Spirit?
10. Are any of the deeds of the flesh listed in verses 19-20 a surprise to you? Are any of them a problem for you?  
  
 Those who practice such things will not enter into the Kingdom of God. That is a difficult statement. This is not speaking of a onetime sin, but a pattern of sin in a person’s life. The key is, don’t delude yourself and don’t try to deceive God. He knows the intent of the heart.
11. As you study the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22-24, take note that the word fruit is singular. This is fruit, not fruits individually. It is one fruit, not many fruits. All of the fruit should be evident in a Spirit controlled life, not just one or two. How do you feel about the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your own life?
12. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit according to verse 25? What does it mean to live by the Spirit?
13. Is the message in verse 26 a problem for Christians? If so, why? If a person is boastful and he/she is challenging other believers, what does that say about that person’s spirituality, their walk with God?

## **Galatians 6 In your freedom, care for others**

1. According to verse 1, when someone sins, what is to be our first response, judgement or restoration? Which reflects love? How does this impact gossip within the church? According to verse 1, why should we respond in this manner?

2. Explain what verse 2 is saying and give a practical example of how this is to take place.
3. What is the meaning of verses 3-5? Where does restoration of the brother or sister begin?
4. How do you feel about verse 6? Do you agree, or does it bother you? What does it mean?
5. Verse 7 is a powerful verse. We need to continually remind ourselves of the message of this verse. Remember Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. They took God lightly and it cost them their lives.
6. Evaluate your life according to verse 8. What is it that you are sowing to?
7. It is important to be helpful to everyone, but according to verses 9-10, it is especially important to be helpful to other believers. Especially to those in our own church. Are most helping and welfare ministries aimed at believers or non-Christians? How does your answer relate to verse 10?

What are some ways we can be helpful to the household of faith, to the household of BBF?

8. Galatians 6:11 Paul often had a secretary write his letters for him. It is believed that he had an eye or seeing problem. Now he said he finishes the letter in his own hand.
9. According to verses 12-13, what does Paul say is his reason to boast? Is this a good reason to boast? What would be a poor reason for boasting?
10. Explain the meaning of verses 15-16. How does this relate to us today?
11. What is Paul's claim in verse 17?

Galatians is a powerful little book with a big message concerning our freedom in Christ!!

**The Just Shall Live By Faith!!!**

## James 1 The Testing of Our Faith

1. James 1:1 James authority and audience.
2. In verses 2-4 James encourages us to be joyful in the face of our trials. For Christian Jews, their trials may have been persecution due to their faith in Christ.

Name three benefits we experience as a result of our testing and trials.

3. In verses 5-8, note that this wisdom which is offered is most likely how to deal with the previously mentioned trials. (Remember to always consider the immediate context when interpreting a verse or a passage of scripture.)

How does it say God will respond to those who pray for wisdom in how to deal with their trials and the decisions they make?

What must our attitude be in asking for wisdom according to verse 6?

What happens if we lack faith when we ask?

4. What does a person with very little material wealth tend to focus on? What do you think James is saying they should focus on according to verse 9?

According to verses 10-11, what does James say the wealthy person should focus on? Why?

5. When does a person receive the crown of life mentioned in verse 12. What is the crown of life? What is it awarded for?
6. Temptation means a test. Why shouldn't we blame God for our temptations according to verses 13-16? What is the source of our temptations?
7. Explain what you learn about God in verses 17-18. What is God's purpose for us according to verse 18?
8. God strengthens us to overcome our temptations but we also must act by our will to overcome temptation. There is God's part and there is my part. We work as a team to overcome temptation. What must we do according to verses 19-21?
9. What is the meaning of verse 22? Explain.  
Have you ever been a hearer of the word, but failed to be a doer?
10. Explain what James is saying in verses 23-25.

What is important about verse 25? Do you think it is true? Give an example.

11. Explain from verses 26-27 what it means to be truly religious. How can we as individuals be active in accomplishing this in 2017? How can we as a church be active in accomplishing this?

## **James 2 Faith without the evidence of works is dead.**

By now I am sure that you have noticed that James is not a heavy doctrinal book, but it is extremely practical. Some might even say that James liked to step on toes.

1. Explain the circumstances James shares in verses 1-4. Can you explain how this story may play out in churches today? Can it happen at BBF? Remember, favoritism or personal prejudice may be evidenced in many ways apart from economic differences.
2. God often chooses the poor above the rich. Explain how humans may choose the opposite of how God chooses. Why do we tend to do that? Think of the various groups in the high school you attended as an example of how we place value on one person or group of people over another. Can that happen with Christians in church? (see verses 5-7)
3. In verse 8 we again receive the command to love our neighbor as our self. That means to not treat them as we would want to be treated, or to show partiality, is a sin. (see 8-9)
4. In verses 10-13 it says, if I show partiality, I sin. If I sin, then I am a transgressor of the law. I am a law breaker, just as an adulterer or a murderer is a law breaker, a transgressor.

So, shouldn't I as a law breaker, be the first to show mercy to other law breakers instead of judging them and shunning them or showing negative partiality towards them?

James 2:14-26 is a key passage on faith.

5. Looking at verse 14, what kind of faith is saving faith? Do you agree with this verse? Why or why not?
6. James 2:15-17 What is the problem which is portrayed in this passage? What is meant in verse 17?
7. Explain verse 18 in your own words.
8. Demons are not atheists. Did you ever think about that? According to verse 19, they are monotheists, they believe in God, yet they are not saved. What is the problem for them?

How does this illustration of the demons relate to humans? Can we believe in God, in Jesus Christ and yet be lost, just like the demons?

9. Explain from the example of Abraham and Isaac, in verses 20-24, how faith was working with works.

How does that work in our lives? Can you give an example?

10. According to verses 20 and the example of Rahab. Her faith was immediately courageous.

11. James 2:26 is another key verse. How is your faith? Strong and healthy I hope!!!

Introduction to

## **The Letter of James**

The Author: James, the half-brother of Jesus

About James:

1. The brother of Jesus (Galatians 1:19)  
(See Matthew 13:55 and mark 6:3 for the names of Jesus' brothers.)
2. He was the son of Mary and Joseph  
Some believe he was the son of Joseph by a previous marriage, but that would have made him Joseph's first born and therefore the heir to the throne of Judah. The Bible is clear that Jesus is the heir of Judah's throne through Joseph, making him Joseph's first born, not James.
3. He was the next younger brother of Jesus. What he must have learned from his older brother growing up would have been amazing. But, what must it have been like to grow up in the shadow of an older brother such as Jesus.
4. James failed to believe in Jesus as the Messiah until after His resurrection. (John 7:5; I Corinthians 15:7)
5. Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection, which likely led James to faith in Christ. (Acts 1:14)
6. By AD 44, James was the leader of the Jerusalem church. (Acts 12:17)

7. Josephus, the Jewish historian, says James was stoned by the High Priest and the Sadducees in AD 62 for transgressions of the law.

The Date: 45-47

James was probably written after the persecution began (think Stephen and Saul) and the death of James the Apostle in AD 44, and before the Jerusalem Council of AD 56.

If it was written before the Jerusalem Council, which was most likely the case, James would have been the first New Testament book written.

The audience was most likely Jewish believers from the Day of Pentecost on, who had been dispersed throughout the Roman Empire after the beginning of the persecution of the church.

James wrote to encourage them due to the persecution they may experience as a result of their rejection the Jewish law. He also desired to warn them against rejecting the keeping of the moral code as a result of grace.

The Purpose and Theme of James:

James calls his audience to practical Christian living. The truth is we are saved by grace and grace alone resulting in our Justification.

Progressive sanctification, however, deals with how we live as a result of our justification. It has to do with our progress in becoming more like Jesus.

James was not written to the lost that they might be saved by God's grace, but to Jews who were already saved by grace, that they might be sanctified by living and doing God's will. (I John 5:3)

The theme of James deals with the relationship between faith and works.

Theme: Faith that Works!

Key Chapter: James 1

Key Verses: James 1:19-22; James 3:14-17

