

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“A Stricter Judgment”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 3:1

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. Today we continue in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #16. I have titled today’s message *“A Stricter Judgment”* (3:1).
-) About 2000 years ago, shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a new *“Way”* was being taught. The people who followed this *“Way”* were called Christians. This *“Way”* taught a system of salvation (the path of eternal life) based on grace alone through faith alone in the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, alone.
-) How accurate were these teachers? How accurate are our teachers today? Much is written in NT Scriptures about those who want to teach this path of faith called Christianity.
-) Let’s look at what the Scriptures teach us about those who want to teach the Scriptures.
-) **SLIDE 9**. JAMES 3:1. James tells us that teachers (of the Word of God) will incur a stricter judgment.
-) **SLIDE 10**. A teacher of the Scriptures will be **JUDGED** more strictly than the student. So, you want to be a teacher of the Scriptures, do you? Are you willing to risk a stricter judgment?
-) **SLIDE 11**. This morning I want to look at three Biblical conditions of the teacher who teaches the Word of God: 1) the qualifications of a teacher; 2) the motives of a teacher; 3) the doctrine of the teacher. Each one of these could be a separate sermon. But let’s cover these three points this morning.

-) **SLIDE 12.** And as we look at these Biblical conditions, we will see why James tells us that those who violate these conditions will incur a stricter judgment. First, the qualifications.
-) In the Book of 1COR 12 and ROMANS 12, we are taught about Spiritual gifts. Every true born-again believer in the Body of Christ (church) has been given a Spiritual gift(s).
-) **SLIDE 13.** ROMANS 12:6-8. This list gives seven different Spiritual gifts. There are more. And one of those gifts is teaching. Read. If you want to know more about Spiritual gifts, I did a 13-week series on Spiritual gifts back in 2016.
-) **SLIDE 14.** We must know this about Spiritual gifts. The gifts are distributed as the Holy Spirit determines. 1 COR 12:11.
-) Spiritual gifts are not earned and they are not learned. They cannot be bought nor can they be taught. They are gifted to us by the Holy Spirit as He determines.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Only those who are **GIFTED** by the Holy Spirit to teach should be teaching. This means 1) that not every Christian should be a teacher of the Scriptures and 2) there are some who have the gift of teaching that should be teaching.
-) **SLIDE 16.** What about pastors? Should men who pastor churches also be teachers? Yes. 1TIM 3:2-3.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Paul writes this to Titus who is the overseer at the church on the island of Crete. He follows up with that same truth about pastors teaching in TITUS 1:7-9.
-) Not all teachers are pastors, but all pastors better be teachers.
-) The Word of God makes it gender specific what men and women should and should not be doing when it comes to teaching the Word of God in the church.
-) **SLIDE 18.** 1 TIM 2:12-14. Paul not only gives the command for women not to teach or have authority over men, but he gives a reason for the command.

-) It's the Biblical order of creation. Man was created first and the woman was deceived.
-) Ever since the middle of the 20th century until now, this has been a controversial issue in the church. But it was God who created the two genders and it was God who gave each gender specific roles in the home and in the church.
-) If women have been gifted to teach (and many of them have), they should be teaching other women and teaching the children. It's actually very simple.
-) Those are the qualifications for teaching the Word of God. Are there people in teaching positions today who should not be in teaching positions because of their qualifications or lack of? Absolutely. And these will be judged more strictly for violating God's qualifications for teaching His Word.
-) **SLIDE 19.** Now let's look at their motives.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Paul gives three godly motives (or goals) for Biblical teaching. 1TIMOTHY 1:5.
-) **SLIDE 21.** A "*pure heart*" means that his motive for teaching is genuine.
-) **SLIDE 22.** A "*good conscience*" means that he meets God's qualifications for teaching. He has apostolic authority.
-) **SLIDE 23.** A "*sincere faith*" means his doctrine is correct.
-) Those are godly motives to be a teacher. Do some teachers of the Word have disingenuous and evil motives? Absolutely.
-) **SLIDE 24.** Paul writes this. TITUS 1:10-11. What is their motive? Sordid gain. Filthy lucre. Money.
-) **SLIDE 25.** Another example. This text from the apostle Peter reinforces what Paul writes about the financial motives for teaching the Word of God. 2 PETER 2:1-3.

-) They follow their sensuality (they do this to please themselves) and they are in it for financial gain because they are greedy.
-) Those are the motives for teaching the Word of God—both good and bad. Are there people in teaching positions today who should not be in teaching positions because of their motives? Absolutely. And these will be judged more strictly for violating God's motives for teaching the Word of God.
-) **SLIDE 26.** Now let's look at their doctrine. First the good.
-) **SLIDE 27.** TITUS 2:1. Paul commands Titus to speak sound doctrine. Not fables or myths or opinions. Sound doctrine. Truth. Perform a proper exegesis of the Scriptures Titus.
-) This is how the Scriptures are to be properly handled. With sound doctrine. But this isn't always the case.
-) **SLIDE 28.** We have used 2 PETER 2:1-3 to establish the motives of false teachers. Let's use those same verses again and look at their doctrine. 2 PETER 2:1-3.
-) **SLIDE 29.** A teacher with **EVIL** motives will always be presenting **FALSE** doctrine. You cannot separate the two. When you have one, you'll have the other.
-) **SLIDE 30.** We have used 2 PETER 2:1-3 to establish the motives and doctrines of false teachers. Let's use those same verses again and see how this text supports what James is saying about teachers being judged more strictly. 2 PETER 2:1-3.
-) These three verses talk about the motives, the doctrine, and the judgment of false teachers. But teachers with false motives and false doctrine can be a two-way street. Let me explain.
-) **SLIDE 31.** Sometimes the congregation wants these false teachers in their church. 2TIM 4:3-4. Don't give us sound doctrine. Don't tell me who the wolves are. Only tell us what we want to hear. Make us feel good. Don't offend anyone.

-) And when this is what the congregation demands, I assure you, this type of congregation will find someone out there who will be more than willing to tickle their itching ears.
-) All of the issues that I have spoken about up to this point are very serious Biblical issues. The qualifications. The motives. The doctrine. But there is one doctrinal issue that is of eternal importance. And the teacher better get it right.
-) One who teaches the Scriptures must be accurate about the topic they are teaching, especially when it comes to the truth of the gospel. A teacher might get his/her hands slapped and slapped hard for getting their eschatology incorrect, but judgment will be severe to those who teach a false gospel.
-) **SLIDE 32**. How severe? GALATIANS 1:8-9. Paul says 2x.
-) We have talked about this at length over the past few weeks and when we were in our study of the Book of GALATIANS. The judgement of a teacher of a false gospel is so strict, that they are to be accursed (anathema, eternally condemned). That is a pretty strict judgment.
-) **SLIDE 33**. A teacher of a false gospel is to be **ACCURSED**.
-) **SLIDE 34**. Let's not forget the words of Jesus in MATTHEW 15:14. There will be terrible consequences for both the teacher and the student.
-) Look at the pics of the two teachers that I have on the inside of your bulletin. That woman who is teaching the children is just as responsible for teaching the true gospel to those children as the man is preaching to his congregation.
-) So, you want to be a teacher of the Scriptures, do you?
-) **SLIDE 35**. What should we do if we suspect a false teacher in our church? ROMANS 16:17-18.
-) I'm going to put myself on the spot here.

-) If you sense that a teacher in your church does not meet the Biblical qualifications for a teacher, or is teaching for sordid gain (filthy lucre, \$\$\$), or if their teaching is contrary to the true gospel, then turn away from them. Have that person removed or you find another church where the teaching is Biblical and the teachers are qualified.
-) **SLIDE 36**. JAMES 3:1. Every pastor and every teacher of the Scriptures should tremble at this verse every time they begin to teach. I know I do. I will be judged more strictly for my qualifications for teaching, my motives for teaching, and the content of what I teach.
-) And so will every person standing in a pulpit on a Sunday morning. And so will every teacher sitting around a table with students hungry for the Word. And so will every TV evangelist who demands you send them your seed money to buy that miracle that you need in your life.
-) So, you want to teach the Scriptures, do you? You better do it right and you better get it right. Because those who teach the Word of God will incur a stricter judgment.

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