

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“One Turns Him Back”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 5:19-20

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Today we will complete our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #29. I have titled today’s message *“One Turns Him Back”* (5:19).
-) Throughout this book of JAMES, James, the author, refers to those who claim to be followers of Jesus (the Way) as the brethren. Are they truly Christians? Well, that’s the big question now isn’t it?
-) **SLIDE 9.** That’s why I put this slide up here back on 1/9/22 in week #2 of this series. You say you’re a Christian? Prove it. Where’s the evidence? James is asking the same question throughout this book too. Are you truly a Christian?
-) **SLIDE 10.** A few Scripture passages I’d like to bring to our attention. MATTHEW 7:13-14. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 11.** MATTHEW 7:13-14. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 12.** MATTHEW 7:21-23. Many who regularly attend church. Many who say they are slain in the spirit. Many who pastor churches. Many who think they are Christians.
-) **SLIDE 13.** MATTHEW 13:20-22. Explain.
-) So, we know people fall away. Not everyone who claims Christianity is a Christian. No, they didn’t lose their salvation. They never had it to begin with. They are apostates. Here in James they say they are part of the brethren but they may not be. Why? Because some do fail the test.

-) **SLIDE 14.** Here are the tests James gives us in these five chapters:
-) Will we fail at these on occasion? Of course we will. But we better be very careful to not lead a lifestyle in constant violation of any of these tests. Where's the evidence?
-) **SLIDE 15.** That's when we must seriously consider this. 2COR 13:5. I think it's a great idea if we examine ourselves daily to make sure our faith is right with the Lord.
-) 1) I may know that I'm a sinner and that 2) I can't work my way to eternal life and 3) Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, and 4) I know He is the only way unto salvation, and 5) that He died on a cross and rose from the grave for the forgiveness of my sins. So, 6) where's the evidence of all this?
-) **SLIDE 16.** JAMES 5:19. James is telling us here that we need to challenge and confront those who say they are the brethren (Christians) concerning their sin; their lifestyle; their evidence; any time we may feel they are failing the test.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Some may say that is judging. That exactly what it is. 1 COR 5:12-13a.
-) But Mike, I don't feel comfortable confronting another person concerning their sin. Well, we love our own children. Right? As they were growing up we had no problem confronting and correcting them when they were doing wrong. Right?
-) So I ask. Do we love our brothers and sisters in Christ? Do we want to see them go down a path of destruction? Do we want them to be one of the ones who fall away from a professed faith? Do we want them to be one of the many? I think not.
-) **SLIDE 18.** When we have doubts about confronting one of the brethren, we need to remember our motivation for doing so. JAMES 5:19-20. What better friend can one have than one, because of their honesty and love, who saves his/her soul from eternal death.

-) John MacArthur, one of my mentors, says this and he says it quite often. *“There is nothing more loving than the truth.”* Because we know what? The truth will what? Set us free.
-) **SLIDE 19.** The writer of HEBREWS gives us a very severe warning about falling away. HEBREWS 6:4-6.
-) Story time about Jack. Do I affirm his sin and give him false hope of salvation? Or do I make him look inward and examine his own faith, his own lifestyle, his own sin? One cannot be in a constant state of known unrepentant sin and believe they are OK with Jesus.
-) I am responsible to him. But I am not responsible for him. Remember, Jesus says the way to eternal life is narrow.
-) In July of 2008, a poll was taken by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. In that poll, 35,000 self-proclaimed evangelical Christians were asked if Jesus was the only way to heaven. The results? 57% of evangelical church attenders said they believe many religions can lead to eternal life.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Folks, these people make up the *“many”* that Jesus talks about in MATT 7. These people need to be told the truth! JAMES 5:19-20. We want to save their soul from death.
-) **SLIDE 21.** The Book of JAMES is a series of tests which show the evidence of our faith. As Martin Luther, the father of the Protestant Reformation says, *“We are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone.”* Add to our list.
-) We judge others because we want to restore others. We accept judgment from others because, if we are truly in the faith, we want to be restored.
-) **SLIDE 22.** And we always show evidence of our faith. The Book of JAMES. The nuts and bolts of Christian living.

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