

1. Opening Prayer
2. Who is James?

Brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:53-55, John 7:3-5, Acts 1:14)

The first pastor of Jerusalem Church (Acts 15:13-21, 21:16-18, Gal. 2:8-9)

3. Intro to the Letter of James (from The Interpreter's Bible)

When? Around A.D 60-66 (Written after the Romans. Compare Romans 4 with James 2:14-26.)

To whom? To the Jewish Christians scattered (1:1 or **5:19-20**)

Question. Why to the Jewish Christians? Wasn't there any Gentile Christian?

Can you find a possible answer regarding James' role in Jerusalem?

4. The Purpose of Letter from James: Exhortation for Practical Faith

#### **i. Against**

- a. The 'arrogant' wealthy (1:10-11, 2:2-5)
- b. The hypocritical (2:14, 18)
- c. Greed (1:14-15, 4:1)
- d. Mutual recrimination (3:10, 4:11-12)
- e. The Double-minded (4:8)

#### **ii. About**

- a. Good deeds (1:21, 27)
- b. Prudent speech (1:26, 3:1)
- c. Congregational Prayer (5:13-16)

#### **iii. For Perfection (1:4, 3:2)**

Perfection (*teleios*): rooted from *telos* (*noun. termination, the end, something finished or closed*)

adj. brought to its end, finished, lacking nothing, perfect, full grown, etc.

*from Thayer's Greek Lexicon*

## 5. Read James 1

## 6. Questions

- a. The structure of this letter looks unorganized. Some people, however, say it has symmetric structure. A good example is the beginning (1:1) and the end (5:19-20). If they are related, how do you understand the “scattered Jews?”
- b. According to James, how come we can consider “trials (*dokimion*: proving, or something which is tried to prove – from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)” as pure joy? (vv.3-5)
- c. What are the differences between to believe and to doubt? Is there any positive effect of Christian doubt? (vv. 6-7)
- d. Reading vv. 9-11, how should we understand our wealth or possession?
- e. How shall we understand temptations in vv. 12-14?  
Temptation (*peirasmos*): a. the trial of man's fidelity, integrity...b. temptation of God by men (rebellion against God, by which his power and justice are, as it were, put to the proof and challenged to show themselves. – from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- f. Reading vv. 13-18, who do you think God is? In this Pandemic, who is God to you?
- g. In vv. 19-22, which word is paired with speaking and listening? What does James want to tell us by pairing those words?
- h. What have you listened to God last week? And what do you have to do according to the word of God this week? Let us share.

## 7. Closing Prayer