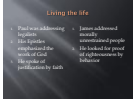


#1



#2



#3



## ***James Part 5 Living the life***

***Paul's epistles emphasized the work of God.***

He was concerned about the legalists among them. Therefore, he spoke of justification with God by faith. Paul defined God's work, through the power of Christ that affects our position eternally.

***James was addressing the morally unrestrained people in the congregation.***

*James looked for proof of righteousness by behavior.*

*Paul views righteous from a heavenly viewpoint as a gift of God.*

*James viewed the human experience and required a life that compliments the faith.*

***These are not exclusively correct doctrines.***

*We must know that without God's divine intervention we are eternally doomed.*

*On the other side, we must recognize the need to live the life before God.*

***James encourages us to live with a sound mind.***

- *Do not waver in faith with the trials and temptations of life.*
- *Guard your thoughts and words.*
- *Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.*
- *Do not show favoritism toward people*  
*From James we learn moral restraint and justification by works.*

***Paul referred to faith as a gift of God and James speaks of faith that requires appropriate action.***

*George became the subject of conversation. One man said to the other, —Have you heard about George? —He embezzled the company out of half a million dollars. —That’s terrible. I never did trust George. —Not only that, but he left town and took Tom’s wife with him. —That’s awful. George has always been a low down good for nothing. —Not only that, but he stole a car to make his getaway. —That’s scandalous. I always did think that George had a bad streak in him. —Worse than that he was drunk when he left town...! —George is no good. But what really bothers me is—who’s going to teach his Sunday School class on Sunday?*

#4

***James is looking for true religion in the church.***

He is interested in stirring believers to be doers of the whole counsel of God.

He is looking for the character of Christ in us.

***James 2:10-13 NIV*** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

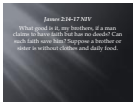
#5

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

***We must be careful to live a holy life before the Lord Jesus Christ and the world.***

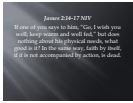
***The world must see the impact of Jesus Christ on our lives.***

#6



**James 2:14-17 NIV** What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

#7



If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

#8



**Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

#9



***What is James really looking for?***

He is not encouraging legalistic behavior in believers.  
 He is getting down to the inner most change in our lives.  
 He is looking for the basis of what constitutes our lives.

***Why do we do what we do?***

***James is looking for a faith in Christ that really works.***

Has Jesus Christ really had an impact on your life?  
 Are there evidences of the Holy Spirit in your character and behavior?  
 Has He changed you from the inside out?  
 Is there corresponding conduct?

***This is crucial.***

***Are you living the life?***

***What impact has your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ had on your life?***

*Has it affected your thoughts and words?*

*Has it influenced your attitude and actions in good times and bad?*

*Has it changed your activities?*

*How do you treat others?*

***These matters go much deeper than benevolence, or kind acts to others.***

#10



***The outward life is a reflection of what is occurring in your heart.***

*We cannot slander our brother and have a pure heart.*

*We cannot have a pure heart and forsake the poor, homeless, and widows.*

*The compassion of our action is a declaration of the Spirit of Christ within us.*

*The words of our mouth reflect what is in the heart.*

***What reflection you are giving?***

*Faith without corresponding actions is divorced from morality.*

*Faith without works lacks commitment.*

***Works without faith is equally dangerous.***

*They bring legalism and bondage.*

#11



***There is a word in the Greek language that comes straight over into the English language.***

***James says faith and actions were synergizing.***

*Synergism means the power of the two parts united is greater than the power of the individual elements.*

*The power of them coming together is greater than simply faith or works alone.*

***Faith plus works is greater than faith or works.***

*Faith without works is dead.*

*Works without faith is legalism.*

***James would refer you back to the purpose of Christ's ministry.***

#12



***In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus said:*** “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

***The Spirit of the Lord on Him did something.***

***The Spirit brought the Lord Jesus Christ into action.***

***James is looking for that same pure and undefiled Spirit and faith based religion in the Church.***

***He is not looking at the way the world acts.***

He is referring to those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our faith in Christ produces.

We are to be different from all of the other people on earth.

#13



***Jesus is the example for every believer.***

***James 2:12 NIV*** Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom

***James is calling for a practical faith.***

The power of the Holy Spirit is upon us.

This should dramatically impact the words of our mouth and our actions.

***James gives the practical application of this faith.***

He says we will not show partiality if we are guided by this faith.

Showing partiality is just as serious a sin as adultery or murder.

He says we will keep our words under control if we live this life.

An uncontrolled tongue is just as dangerous as any other sin.

***We do not live on a merit system with God.***

*If we keep most of the law, we are not permitted to break some of the law.*

*God is not looking at us on a quota basis.*

***James is calling for nothing less than what Jesus required of His disciples.***

#14



***Matthew 5:7 NIV*** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

#15



***Matthew 6:14-15 NIV*** For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

#16



***Matthew 7:1-2 NIV*** Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

***Are you living the life?***

#17



***We must live as one who will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead (1 Peter 4:5).***

In his book, "Who Switched the Price Tags", Dr. Tony Campolo tells about his preacher, a black pastor of his home church in downtown Philadelphia.

He said the difference between good black preaching and white preaching is most white pastors take the whole hour to preach on Romans 10:4.

***He said, My pastor could preach through the whole Bible in ten minutes.***

His pastor was preaching through the Bible to a group of graduating seniors.

Dr. Campolo's pastor stood up and said, —Children, you're going to have to decide whether in life you're going to go for a title or you're going to have a testimony. You can get the title, D.D., M.A., or the Ph.D., but that doesn't matter.

***It's the testimony that matters.***

***You can profess to be a Christian, but that doesn't matter. It's the testimony that matters.***

***Then he went through the Bible.***

Pharaoh had the title, but Moses had the testimony. Nebuchadnezzar had the title, but Daniel had a testimony.

Jezebel had the title, but Elijah had the testimony.

Herod had the title, but John the Baptist had the testimony.

Pilate had the title, but my King Jesus had the testimony.

The answer depends on whether you live to get titles or live to get testimony.

When they lay you in the grave are people going to recite the fancy titles you earned or are they going to give testimonies of the good things you did for them?

Children, one of these days, you're going to die.

You may not believe that. You may not like that. But you're going to die.

They're going to take you out, and somebody's going to dig a grave, and drop you in the grave, and they're going to throw dirt on your face, and they're going to go home or back to the church, and eat potato salad.

In that day, when you stand before the Lord, the question is not going to be, did you have a title?

The question is not going to be did you teach a Sunday School class, serve as deacon, or a pastor.

The question is going to be, did you have the testimony? Will the Lord say, "Well done good and faithful servant?"