

Good News From Chardon

Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave.
Chardon, OH 44024
440-286-5505
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Issue 3

An Introduction To The Book Of James

This little book was written by James, the half-brother of Jesus and a leader in the church at Jerusalem. Despite its connection to Jesus and the early church, James has never enjoyed the devotion and praise of books like Romans or Galatians. Yet its impact and place in Scripture cannot be denied. While Hebrews was written to discourage Christians from returning to Judaism, James was written to correct bad attitudes and actions that had arose during life's difficult struggles.

According to Henry Thiessen¹, James was written because of outward experiences, a bad spiritual state, and doctrinal errors of the Jewish Christians. They were being inundated by various trials and struggles, some of which were from their own people. Because of this, their spiritual state had deteriorated, and it was beginning to show in their actions and treatment of others.

This is why James is so practical and focused on doing good works. It also explains why the book has been looked upon as inferior and works focused. Even Martin Luther called it "a right strawy epistle." He never felt comfortable with its emphasis on works especially when compared to other books in the New Testament. Honestly, this is probably why modern Christians have trouble with it.

According to James, faith is so much more than simply saying "I believe in Jesus." Faith is action that treats others right and seeks to help those in need. Personally, I find James to be practical and desperately needed in today's church and world. His "Sermon on the Mount" and Proverbs like approach makes it feel immanently practical. For James, faith must be relevant to life and elevate our everyday actions to Christlikeness in every way. Church, we need more of this in today's church and in our communities. Instead of being inward focused the church must be outward focused and passionate about doing good works (James 2).

Interestingly, James contains features that make it unique in the New Testament. Eight times James quotes Leviticus 19, which deals with life and treatment of others. (See back)

Another interesting thing about James is that he seems to include ideas from at least 2 apocryphal books. These were books that were widely read by Jews in the first century but not considered Scripture. He includes ideas from a book called "Ecclesiasticus" (180 BC), also called Sirach, and a book called "The Wisdom of Solomon" (30 BC). This proves that James read these books and by inspiration included some of their teachings. James was clearly a widely read individual which makes this little book even more relevant for the church.

Overall, James is an amazing little book full of practical wisdom which is meant to be lived. Let me encourage you to consider reading it again and putting its lessons into daily life.

Jeff Arnette preaches for the Central Haywood church of Christ, Clyde, NC.

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Mark
Song Leader: Dale
Opening Hymn:
53—Purer In Heart, O God
Opening Prayer: Tom
Hymn:
668—Our God He Is Alive
Scripture Reading: Ryan
James 3:5-12
Hymn:
98—I Surrender All
Lord's Supper: Robert
Hymn:
346—Hold To God's Unchanging Hand
Sermon: Mark
Invitation Hymn:
642—I Am Resolved
Closing Hymn:
111—Yield Not To Temptation
Closing Prayer: Ray

People may hear your
words, but they feel your
attitude

CALENDAR

Jan. 15—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark—Business meeting
Jan. 15—(a) Tom & Nina
Jan. 21—(b) Madelyn
Jan. 21—(b) Robert
Jan. 22—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Tom
Jan. 24—Ladies Bible Study at Nina's
Jan. 26—(b) Amy
Jan. 29—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark
Jan. 31—(b) Logan
Feb. 5—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Tom—Business meeting

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org

E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com

Pod Cast: Chardon.podbeam.com Follow us on Facebook: Church of Christ

Audio Service: 312-626-6799 Zoom I.D.: 81430241090 Password: 444015

The Untamable Tongue

James 3:5-12

WORD LIST

BEAST	BIRD	BITTER
BLESS	BOAST	BODY
BRETHREN	CREATURE	CURSE
DEADLY	DEFILES	EVIL
FATHER	FIRE	FRESH
HELL	INIQUITY	KINDLES
LITTLE	MANKIND	MEMBER
MOUTH	NATURE	OLIVES
POISON	REPTILE	SALT
SPRING	TAMED	TONGUE
UNRULY	WATER	WHOLE

S H C Z Y M M C E R I F Z E Y
M E A W T L S E U I W M N L T
A W L R A E D F M R K N N I I
N D F D V T S A E B S P A T U
K Q R I N E E R E S E E T P Q
I B L I L I U R E D M R U E I
N O O I B T K L B B U K R R N
D Z F D A N B I O K U L E G I
P E Z E Y H T A M E D I N N K
D G R H S T S U S A L T O I M
H C E E E T N N W N V T S R O
X L R R Q R L I V E A L I P U
L F R B U R T O N G U E O S T
W H O L E F A T H E R B P Q H
B M Y S I X L N E R H T E R B

PRAYER LIST

Mynda and all her family, as she travels.
Debbie's surgery recovery; as her and **Mark** travel
Ackerman family, **Debra's** health
Ruth is home now & attending services
Roberta, doing Bible study with Tom, stroke
recovery and Bible study with **Kris**
Bonnie's grandson **Devin** as he reads and opens
his heart to Christ.
Wanda's migraines; son **Allen**, sisters **Lorraine &**
Joyce
Mary and her family. **Carl's** gout and hip surgery
recovery, **Mary's** leg injury
Kathy, severe feet issues, medical procedure and
pain, her sister and friends. She is at Brier Hill.
Linda's health and procedures. Her friend **Mark**
Zarna and her family
Juanita, her sister **Betty** and the rest of her family.
Ray and **Barbara** and their family.
Dale's health issues and his family. His **Mother's**
medical tests. His friend **Riley** (age 6) who has
stage 4 cancer. Brother in Christ **Darrell's**
surgery. His **Aunt Rosie's** heart and lungs.
Cousin with heart issues
Ray and his family. **Rebecca's** medical tests
Pat and her family
Jessie, Doug's friend, health

James 3: 5-12

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

References to Leviticus in James

1. James 2:1 Lev. 19:15
2. James 2:8 Lev. 19:18
3. James 2:9 Lev. 19:15
4. James 4:11 Lev. 19:16
5. James 5:4 Lev. 19:13
6. James 5:9 Lev. 19:18
7. James 5:12 Lev. 19:12
8. James 5:20 Lev. 19:17