

*The Letter to the
12 Tribes*

James

Jas. 2:1-13



Jas. 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that wareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?



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8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

INTRODUCTION, 1:1

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BATTLES, 1:2-16

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From verse 17 until the end of chapter one the Book of James is emphasizing the importance of the Word of God.



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A. God's Word is Likened to a Gift, 1:17-18

1. A gift that brings divine light, 1:17
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1. A challenging experience, 1:23-24
2. A changing experience, 1:25-27



Mt. 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Mt. 22:39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Lev. 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD.

III. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BRETHREN, 2:1-13

A. Partiality: a sin against the Lord, 2:1-7

1. The problem stated, 2:1-3



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a. An indication of the problem, 2:1

Jas. 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

"Someone has said, 'Some go to church to close their eyes, and others go to eye the clothes.'" J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee*, 5:646.

b. An illustration of the problem, 2:2-3

(1) The prosperous man, 2:2a – “For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel...”



Original Word: συναγωγή

Transliteration: sunagógé

Definition: an assembly, congregation, synagogue, either the place or the people gathered together in the place.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4864.htm>

(2) The poor man, 2:2b – “...and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; “

(3) The pitiful man, 2:3

Jas. 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

2. The problem studied, 2:4-7

a. The Christian perspective conveyed, 2:4-6a

(1) The indictment recorded, 2:4

Jas. 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

(2) The indictment reviewed, 2:5

Jas. 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Mt. 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



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1 Cor. 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:

Mt. 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Gal. 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit **the kingdom of God**.

Eph. 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and of God**.



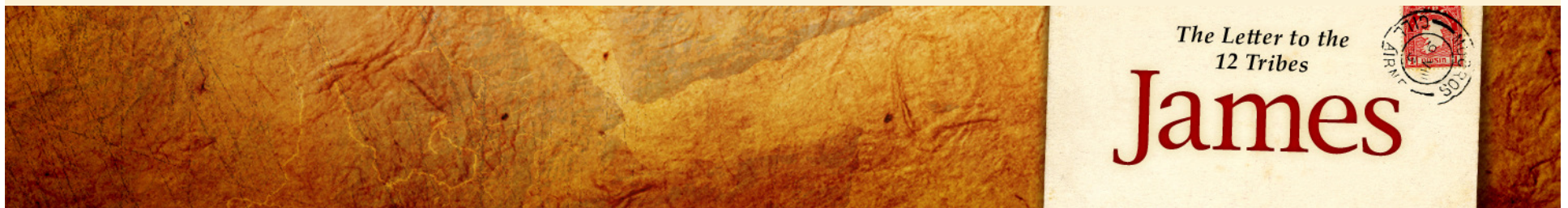
(3) The indictment repeated, 2:6a – “But ye have despised the poor...”

Psa. 41:1 **Blessed is he that considereth the poor:** the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Psa. 82:4 **Deliver the poor and needy:** rid *them* out of the hand of the wicked.

Prov. 29:7 **The righteous considereth the cause of the poor:** *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it*.

2 Cor. 8:9 For **ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**



b. The Christian perspective confirmed, 2:6b-7

(1) Rich people who bully Christians, 2:6b –
“...Do not rich men oppress you, and draw
you before the judgment seats?”

Psa. 10:2 **The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor:** let
them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

(2) Rich people who blaspheme Christ, 2:7

Jas. 2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye
are called?

Prov. 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but **he that
hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he. ...**

**31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he
that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor. (Prov. 17:5)**

B. Partiality: a sin against the law, 2:8-13

1. The royal law defined, 2:8

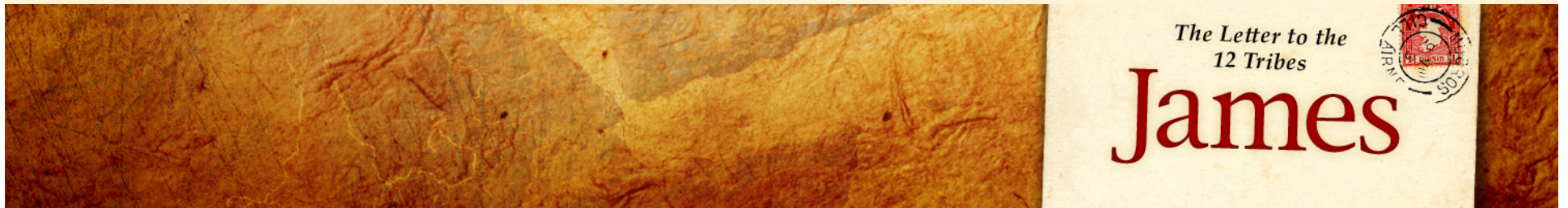
Jas. 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

2. The royal law defied, 2:9-13

a. A very great principle, 2:9-11

(1) An example, 2:9

Jas. 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.



Original Word: προσωποληπτέω

Transliteration: prosópolémpteó

Definition: I favor specially, show partiality.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4380.htm>

(2) An explanation, 2:10-11

(a) The fact declared, 2:10

Jas. 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

(b) The fact demonstrated, 2:11

Jas. 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

b. A very good policy, 2:12-13

(1) God's magnanimity, 2:12

Jas. 2:12 So speak ye, and **so do**, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Actions speak louder than words.

Gal. 5:1 Stand fast therefore in **the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Gal. 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil **the law of Christ**.



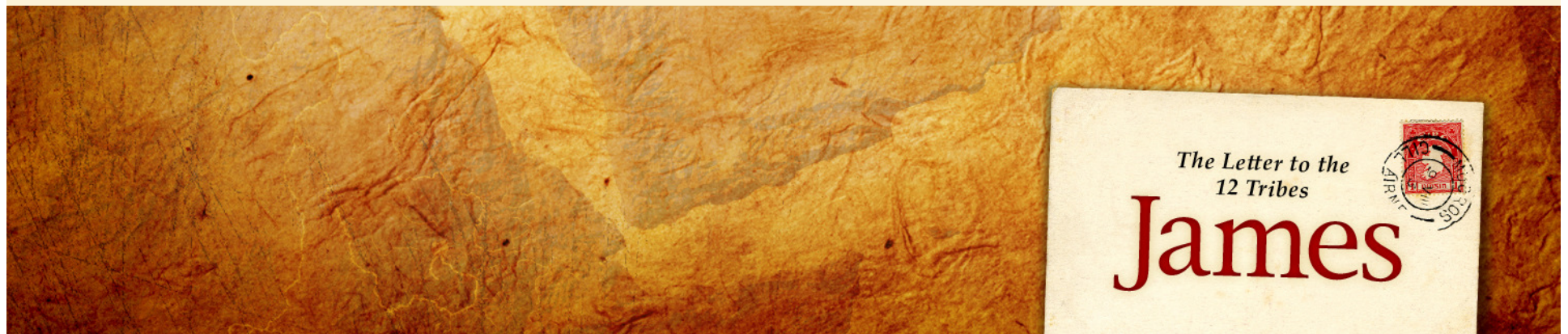
1 Cor. 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.



2. God's mercy, 2:13

- (a) A general rule, 2:13a – “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy...”
- (b) A gracious reminder, 2:13b – “...and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”



Conclusion

Rom. 2:11 For there is **no respect of persons with God.**

Acts 10:34 Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons:**

Rom. 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but **judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.**

Eph. 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;
6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;
7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:
8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.
9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; **neither is there respect of persons with him.**

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