



JAMES

“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”



James

- Generally considered to be author: James (Yacob / Jacob): the half-brother of Jesus & leader of the council of Jerusalem
- full of instruction and command – much of which is inspired by the teaching of Jesus (notably the sermon on the mount) and by the wisdom of the book of Proverbs
- A ‘general letter’ written to the ‘12 Tribes’ – to all believers or at least, as some would argue, all Jewish Christians
- James 1 includes something of a Summary of much of that which the rest of the letter unpacks

So Far...

- James 1:1-25

- Perseverance Through Trials

- Cross borne, crown worn



- Right Choiceness in Temptation

- Deal with it!



- Lies Deceiving or Light Receiving

- Father of Lights > the father of lies



- Bad Stuff Out, Good Stuff In

- Rubbish out and paid for, gift of Gods Word in



- Reflection Reaction

- Our Bible reflection means nothing without action



“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12)



Twisted Tongues or Faultless Faith

James 1:26-27

James 1

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



So, How DO You See Yourself?



So, How DO You See Yourself?

- Religious?
- Devout?
- Committed?
- These are all excellent but no matter how many services we go to, sermons you hear or deliver, good things we do, presents we buy our pastor... it counts for nothing if we cannot control our tongues



So, How DO You See Yourself?

- Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to (Ro 12:3)
- He mocks proud mockers but shows favour to the humble and oppressed (Prov 3:34)
- Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth (Matt 5:5)



Tongue Twisted

- Our tongue is only a small part of our body but it can get us into big trouble
- Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity. (Prov 21:23)

Tongues telling tall tales

Forge rails for faith fails

- Keep it on a rein or deceive yourself again



Worthless Religion

- A loose tongue can undo all the good work!
- ‘their religion is worthless’
- 2.5 out seven of the things that we learned recently are detestable to God = twisted tongue

1) haughty eyes,

2) lying tongue,

3) hands that shed innocent blood,

4) a heart that devises wicked schemes,

5) feet that are quick to rush into evil,

6) a false witness who pours out lies

7) and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. (Prov 6)



Tongue Untying

- The good news – we can have our tongues untwisted, set free and use them to bring life
- Our twisted tongues can be redeemed
- Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Eph 4)
- The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. (Eph 15:4)



Tongue Untwister

- We can speak truth, love and Good News

To thrive all disciples
come alive with their bibles

- May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous (Psalm 119:171)



So How DO We Please God?

- ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



So How DO We Please God?

- By serving those in most need
- Widows and orphans: those in most need in the society of the time
- How do we identify and do something for those who are in the most need in our time and place?



Polluted?

- Original Word: ἄσπιλος, ον
aspilos (as'-pee-los)
Definition: unstained, undefiled, spotless, pure
- We could never earn or achieve this kind of righteousness but we have been given it as a gift of God by the blood of Jesus
- Now we make choices according to this - right-choice-ness
- What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."
(Matt 15:11)



Unpolluted

- Romans 12:1 – offer your bodies as living sacrifices HOLY and PLEASING to God, this is your spiritually reasonable act of worship.
- IN VIEW OF HIS MERCY
- We don't want religion born of earning His favour, we want religion born of having received the gift of His mercy, grace and love.



Twisted Tongues or Faultless Faith

- Do we need to ask God to help us untwist our tongues?
- Is there anything we need to let go of and offer to Him so He can have our whole lives again?
- Who are those in most need in our lives / town / society than we can find a way to serve and love as God has loved us?

