

# “A CASE FOR PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY”

## An Overview of the Book of James

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### I. THE WRITER OF THE BOOK. James 1:1

- A. His History. Matthew 13:54-56a; Mark 3:21; John 7:5
- B. His Self-Perspective. James 1:1
  - Not – “I am Jesus’ brother.”
  - But – “A bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- C. His Relationship to His Readers. James 1:1-2; 2:1; 3:1

### II. THE BOOK AS A WHOLE. James

- A. The Main Theme: Genuine faith produces works.
- B. The Main Section: James 2:14-20

### III. AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK. James

- A. James 1 – Trials, Temptations and True Religion  
  
Patient in Testing. James 1:2-4
  - How are you responding to the trials in your life?
  - Are you giving in or keeping the faith?
  - Are you allowing tough times to separate you from other Christians or pull you together?
- B. James 2 – Partiality and Vital Faith  
  
Practices the Truth. James 2:14, 17, 20, 26
  - How deep is your faith?
  - Do you merely know a lot about God, or do you really know Him?
  - Do you have a superficial faith or do you have a deep trust?

### C. James 3 – Speech and Divine Wisdom

Power Over the Tongue. James 3:1-2, 9-10

- Are you quick to defend yourself and to get in an authoritative word, or are you a good listener?
- Do you voice your grievances and blast your opponents, or do you try to speak constructively?
- Are you quick to pass on the morsel of gossip, or do you remain silent and think the best of others?

### D. James 4 – Conflicts and Humble Submission

Peacemaker, Not a Troublemaker. James 4:6-10, 11

- Are you focused on your own comfort, or are you sacrificing to help others?

### E. James 5 – Money and Patient Endurance

Prayerful in Troubles. James 5:13, 15-18

- What role does money play in your life?
- Are you obsessed with gaining more, or do you see money as a resource to be used for good?
- Do you spend, spend, spend on yourself, or are you a good steward of the time, money, and other resources entrusted to you?
- Do you work to be popular with the rich and influential, or do you associate with the poor, regardless of what others may say or think?

### IV. HOW CAN I GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BOOK OF JAMES?

- A. Be born again. James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:17
- B. Examine your life in the mirror of God’s Word. James 1:22ff
- C. Obey what God teaches, no matter the cost. James 1:22
- D. Be prepared for extra trials and testing. Romans 5:3
- E. Measure growth by the Word of God. Ephesians 4:13