

# *General Epistles*

*BNT - 215*

## **Commentary Section**

*International College of Bible Theology*

## ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

Knowing in your heart that you are born-again, and followed by a statement of faith are the two prerequisites to studying and getting the most out of your ICBT materials. We at ICBT have developed this material to educate each Believer in the principles of God. Our goal is to provide each Believer with an avenue to enrich their personal lives and bring them closer to God.

Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? If you have not accepted Him as such, you must be aware of what Romans 3:23 tells you.

*23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:*

How do you go about it? **You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.**

I John 5:13 gives an example in which to base your faith.

*13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

What if you are just not sure? **Romans 10:9-10 gives you the Scriptural mandate for becoming born-again.**

*<sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Take some time to consider this very carefully. Ask Jesus to come into your heart so that you will know the power of His Salvation and make your statement of faith today.

Once you become born-again, it is your responsibility to renew your mind with the Word of God. Romans 12:1-2 tells us that transformation of the mind can only take place in this temporal world by the Word of God.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

The Apostle Paul, giving instructions to his “son” Timothy states in 2 *Timothy 2:15*:

*15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

What happens if we do these things? Ephesians 4:12-13 gives us the answer to this question.

*12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*

By studying the Word of God, you will be equipped for service in the Kingdom of God and you will also be ready to take the position in the Body of Christ to which God has appointed you. You will be able to walk in unity with other Believers and you will be a vessel of honor to God that can rightly divide the word of truth.

If you are not saved and you do not know what to say, consider this simple prayer.

***Lord, I know that I have need of a saviour. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and the God raised Him from the dead three days later. I ask to be forgiven and for Jesus to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. I believe now by faith that God has heard my prayer and I am born- again.***

If you have prayed this prayer, accept by faith that your sins have been forgiven. It is important that you tell someone of your decision to accept the Lord. Also, it is our recommendation that you should attach yourself to a local Church and undergo water baptism.

For those who have prayed this prayer with sincerity of heart, we welcome to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. May the blessings of God overtake you.

May God grant you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in all of His ways.

ICBT Directors and Staff

## THE VISION

As we have been commissioned by the prophet of God, we now set our hand to write the vision of International College of Bible Theology, so that: **“He that runs may read it, the vision having been clearly written and made plain” (Habakkuk 2:2).**

- 1) **UNITY** - To build up the Body of Christ by networking with all Churches, as well as with local and international ministries. This networking is to provide experienced Leadership ministries to the small, local Church, to encourage unity and fellowship among Pastors, Church Leaders and para-Church groups, through active service.
- 2) **GOSPEL** - To go with the lifeline of the Gospel, wherein we desire to educate with love, integrity, and without compromise.
- 3) **ONE CROSS FOR ALL** - To cross cultural, racial, and denominational lines for unity, fellowship, networking, and progress. To have an open door through ICBT to all, of like faith, who desire to join with us in a common goal for the highest good. To proclaim one cross for all cultures, races, denominations, and peoples.
- 4) **GO YE** - To go wherever there is a need; to rich or poor, to majorities and minorities, to large and small Churches, to free and incarcerated; to go where many fail to go and to meet the needs before us.
- 5) **THE CALLED** - To make opportunities available, to those called to minister, to expand their horizons through new associations and experiences. To aid new and/or younger ministers in fulfilling God's call on their lives.
- 6) **EDUCATION** - God has charged us with propagating the Gospel through education to whosoever will. This education is offered through certificate programs that teach the basics of Christianity and degree programs for those seeking more in-depth levels in Christian teachings.
- 7) **APPLICATION** - To make available to students the opportunity for education, as well as learning practical application, in traditional and non-traditional settings.
- 8) **DREAM A DREAM** - To cause all persons with which we associate to catch a vision, to dream yet another dream, and to keep their eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of their faith.
- 9) **THE CALL** - To encourage each person (all persons) to move out of his/her (their) comfort zone, to be all he/she (they) can be for Christ and to fulfill the call upon their life (lives), to encourage each one (them) to pursue his/her (their) purpose, to live up to his/her (their) potential, and to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

# International College of Bible Theology

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth”  
II Timothy 2:15*

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## General Epistles

152 pages of Commentary

7 Homework Assignments

6 Quiz Assignments

1 Midterm Exam

1 Final Exam

38 pages of Answer Keys for school sites only (Answer keys are not included in the student's copy of material).

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire Commentary.

Do Homework I, which covers pages 8-38 in the Commentary.

Take Quiz 1, which covers materials in Homework I.

Do Homework II, which covers pages 38-70 in the Commentary.

Take Quiz 2, which covers materials in Homework II.

Do Homework III, which covers pages 70-88 in the Commentary.

Take Quiz 3, which covers materials in Homework III.

Take Mid-Term Exam, which covers materials in Homework I-III.

Do Homework IV, which covers pages 88-117 in the Commentary.

Take Quiz 4, which covers materials in Homework IV.

Do Homework V, which covers pages 117-126 in the Commentary

Do Homework VI, which covers pages 126-13 in the Commentary.

Take Quiz 5, which covers Homework V-VI.

Do Homework VII, which covers pages 131-149 in the Commentary

Take Quiz 6, which covers Homework VII.

Take Final Exam, which covers materials in Homework I-VII.

13 weeks in a Trimester: 11 weeks of teaching; and 2 weeks of testing. You will need to cover 12.9 pages per teaching session.

18 weeks in a Semester: 16 weeks of teaching; and 2 weeks of testing. You will need to cover 8.8 pages per teaching session.

**NOTE:** The Instructor is encouraged to add his/her personality to the teaching sessions and to add knowledge to the Commentaries. The Instructor had some latitude if they desire to give some outside homework or essays. Before doing so, please check with the administrator of the school.

**ALL TERM PAPERS MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE THE FINAL EXAM. NO GRADES WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE COURSE WITHOUT THE COMPLETION OF THE TERM PAPER.**

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## **I. JAMES**

### **A. The Christ of James**

In 1:1 and 2:1 James refers to the Lord Jesus Christ, and in 5:7,8 he anticipates the coming of the Lord. Compared to other New Testament writers, James says little about Christ, and yet this Book is virtually saturated with allusions to the teaching of Christ. The Sermon on the Mount is especially prominent in James' thinking. There are fifteen (15) indirect references; e.g., Ja.1:2 and Mt.5:10-12; Ja.1:4 and Mt.5:48; Ja.2:13 and Mt.6:14-15; Ja.4:11 and Mt.7:1-2; Ja.5:2 and Mt.6:19). This epistle portrays Christ in the context of early Messianic Judaism.

### **B. Keys of James**

#### 1. Key Words: Faith That Works

Throughout his epistle, James develops the theme of the characteristics of true faith. He effectively uses these characteristics as a series of tests to help his readers evaluate the quality of their relationship to Christ. The purpose of this work is not doctrinal or apologetic, but practical. James seeks to challenge Believers to examine the quality of their daily lives in terms of attitudes and actions. A genuine faith will produce real change in a person's conduct and character, and the absence of change is a symptom of a dead faith.

#### 2. Key Verses: James 1:19-22 and 2:14-17

#### 3. Key Chapter: James 1

One of the most difficult areas of the Christian life is that of testing and temptations. James reveals our correct response to both: To testing, count them all joy; to temptations, realize that God provides a way of escape.

### **C. Survey of James**

James is the "Proverbs of the New Testament" because it is written in the terse moralistic style of wisdom literature. It is evident that the Old Testament, especially by its Wisdom Literature, and by the Sermon on the Mount, profoundly influenced James. James' impassioned preaching against inequity and social injustice also earns him the title of the "Amos of the New Testament." Because of the many subjects in this epistle, it is difficult to outline. Suggestions have ranged from no connection between the various topics to a unified scheme as an outline. The outline used here is; the test of faith (1:1-18); the characteristics of faith (1:19-5:6); and the triumph of faith (5:7-20).



## 1. The Test of Faith (1:1-18)

The first part of this epistle develops the qualities of genuine faith in regard to trials and temptations. After a one-verse salutation, to geographically dispersed Hebrew Christians (1:1), James quickly introduces his first subject, outward tests of faith (1:2-12). These trials are designed to produce mature endurance and a sense of dependence upon God, to whom the Believer turns for wisdom and enablement. Inward temptations (1:13-18), do not come from the One who bestows every good gift (1:17). These solicitations to evil must be checked at an early stage or they may result in disastrous consequences.

## 2. The Characteristics Of Faith (1:19-5:6)

A righteous response to testing requires that one be “swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...” (1:9), and this broadly summarizes the remainder of the epistle. Quickness of hearing involves an obedient response to God's Word (1:19-27). True hearing means more than mere listening; The Word must be received and applied. After stating this principle (1:21, 22), James develops it with an illustration (1:23-25), and an application (1:26-27). A genuine faith should produce a change in attitude from partiality to the rich to a love for the poor as well as the rich (2:1-13). True faith should also result in actions (2:14-26). In Romans 4, Paul used the example of Abraham to show that justification is by faith, not by works. But James says that Abraham was justified by works (2:21). In spite of the apparent contradiction, Romans chapter four (4) and James chapter two (2) are really two (2) sides of the same coin. In context, Paul is writing about justification before God while James writes of the evidence of justification before men. A faith that produces no change is not saving faith.

Moving from works to words, James shows how a living faith controls the tongue, as in “slow to speak” (1:19). The tongue is small, but it has the power to accomplish great good or equally great evil. Only the power of God applied by an active faith can tame the tongue (3:1-12). Just as there are wicked and righteous uses of the tongue, there are demonic and Divine manifestations of wisdom (3:13-18). James contrasts seven (7) characteristics of human wisdom with seven qualities of Divine wisdom.

The strong pulls of worldliness (4:1-12), and wealth (4:13-5:6), create conflicts that are harmful to the growth of faith. The world system is at enmity with God, and the pursuit of its pleasures produce covetousness, envy, fighting, and arrogance (4:1-6). The Believer's only alternative is submission to God with a humble and repentant spirit. This will produce a transformed

attitude toward others as well (4:7-12). This spirit of submission and humility should be applied to any attempts to accrue wealth (4:13-17), especially because wealth can lead to pride, injustice, and selfishness (5:1-6).

### 3. The Triumph of Faith (5:7-20)

James encourages his readers to patiently endure the sufferings of the present life in view of the future prospect of the coming of the Lord (5:7-12). They may be oppressed by the rich or by other circumstances, but as the example of Job teaches, Believers can be sure that God has a gracious purpose in His dealings with them. James concludes his epistle with some practical words on prayer and restoration (5:13-20). The prayers of righteous men, Elders in local Churches, are efficacious for the healing and restoration of Believers. When sin is not dealt with, it can contribute to illness and even death.

## D. Outline of James

I.	The Test of Faith	1:1-18
A.	The Purpose of Tests	1:1-12
B.	The Source of Temptations	1:13-18
II.	The Characteristics of Faith	1:19-5:6
A.	Faith Obeys the Word	1:19-27
B.	Faith Removes Discrimination	2:1-13
C.	Faith Proves Itself by Works	2:14-26
D.	Faith Controls the Tongue	3:1-12
E.	Faith Produces Wisdom	3:13-18
F.	Faith Produces Humility	4:1-12
G.	Faith Produces Dependence on God	4:13-5:6
III.	The Triumph of Faith	5:7-20
A.	Faith Awaits Christ's Return	5:7-12

- B. Faith Prays for the Afflicted 5:13-18
- C. Faith Confronts the Erring Brother 5:19-20

## **E. Special Features**

Seven (7) major features characterize this letter.

1. It is most likely the first book written in the New Testament.
2. It reminisces about Jesus.

Although it contains only two (2) references to Christ by name, there are more reminiscences of Jesus' teaching in this letter, including at least fifteen (15) allusions to the Sermon on the Mount, than in all the other New Testament letters combined.

3. More than half of its one hundred eight (108) verses are imperatives or commands.
4. In many ways it is the Proverbs of the New Testament.
  - a. It is full of Godly wisdom and practical instructions for a living a genuine Christian life.
  - b. It is written in terse style, with crisp commands and vivid analogies.
5. James is an observer.

James is an astute observer of the operations of nature and fallen human nature. He often draws lessons from the former to expose the latter (3:1-12).

6. James emphasizes faith and deeds.

It emphasizes more than any other New Testament Book the necessary relation between faith and deeds (2:14-26).

7. James deals with social issues.

James is sometimes called the "Amos of the New Testament," because he vigorously addresses issues of social injustice and inequality.

## F. James: Faith for Living

One of the earliest, perhaps the first New Testament Book to be written, was the Epistle of James. Its practical, non-doctrinal emphasis reveals the kind of message that God wanted to share with the Christian Community in published form very soon after Jesus ascended to heaven.

### 1. The author is James.

To know the author of a book is to understand and appreciate better his writing. We do not have an abundance of information concerning the man James, but what we do know makes us feel that James is no stranger to us after all.

#### a. James name is related to the patriarch "Jacob."

The English name James in the New Testament translates the Greek "*Jakobos*." This word in the Hebrew language is "Jakob," translated Jacob in the Old Testament.

#### b. James had a quality family background.

To learn something of the author's family background, we first need to identify which James this is. Actually, there are four (4) different New Testament persons with the name James:

- 1) James, the son of Zebedee (Mt.4:21; Mk.1:19; Lk.5:10).
- 2) James, the son of Alphaeus (Mt.10:3; Mk.3:18; 15:40; Lk. 6:15; Ac.1:13).
- 3) James, the brother of Judas the Apostle (Lk.6:16).
- 4) James, the Lord's brother (Mt.13:55; Mk.6:3; Ga.1:19).

There is strong support that the epistle's author was the last-named James. This is the view followed by this study guide. James really was a half-brother of Jesus, both having the same mother, but not the same father. Joseph was only the legal father of Jesus; Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Mt.1:20). James had sisters and at least three (3) brothers besides Jesus: Joses (Joseph), Simon, and Jude (Mt.13:55). The home environment in which James was reared must have been an exceptional one, with such devout parents as Mary and Joseph. Yet, the parents could not make their children's decisions

concerning belief in Jesus as Savior and Lord. When it was that James made his decision is the subject of the next section. Whether James ever married and raised his own family is an open question. The only passage in Scripture that may suggest his marriage is in 1 Corinthians 9:5.

c. James' conversion was after the crucifixion.

James and the other brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him as Savior and Lord during the years of Jesus' public ministry (Jn.7: 2-8). Does this passage suggest what hindered the brothers from believing? How do we account for this unbelief in light of such a devout upbringing by Mary and Joseph? What light does Proverbs 22:6 shed on this question? From Acts 1:14, we learn that James had become a Believer sometime before the Day of Pentecost. His conversion may be dated at the time when Jesus appeared to him after His resurrection (1Co.15:7). Or James may have believed just after Jesus' crucifixion. Whenever the experience, it was genuine, for James' entire life was transformed into one of service for Christ, as the Book of Acts so clearly reveals.

d. Christian service became James' life.

- 1) He had a family relationship to Jesus his brother, A.D. 27.
- 2) There was spiritual confrontation with Jesus the Messiah, A.D. 30, the period of the Gospels.
- 3) James' conversion was approximately A.D. 30, the period of the Gospels.
- 4) James was a worker and leader of the Jerusalem Church, A.D. 62. Peter and James were the Leaders, Chapter 12, in the period of the Book of Acts.

e. James character was excellent.

James was a praying man (Ac.1:14). Hegesippus, A.D. 175, commended James' prayer life especially, noting how he spent long hours interceding for the people, so that his knees became calloused. James was a praying man that was pure, powerful, practical, plain, persistent, humble, honest, single-minded, upright, and just. James came to be known by the Early Church as "James the Just," meaning,

“Jesus the Righteous.” It is interesting to note that James' father, Joseph, was “a righteous man” (Mt.1:19); and that James refers to Jesus as “the Righteous Man” (Ja.5:6). The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia pursues this thought at length, showing how the younger brother James and his Elder brother Jesus were so much alike in personality. The content and style of their message were very similar.

f. James was martyred.

A strong tradition is that James was martyred at Jerusalem in A.D. 62. This date is about one year after the closing of the Book of Acts and about five (5) years before Paul and Peter were martyred. The manner of death, if Josephus, A.D. 37-95, and others are correct, was by stoning at the order of Ananias, the high priest.

2. The people addressed by James were the dispersed Jews.

The salutation identified the original readers of this letter as the twelve (12) Tribes who are dispersed abroad. Like many passages in the Bible, this phrase could be interpreted literally or symbolically.

a. The literal interpretation speaks of Jews scattered abroad in two (2) possible ways.

The question is, were the readers Jews in general, representing the twelve (12) families of Israel, living in different parts of the New Testament world, of what is usually called the Dispersion. Or, were they Jewish Christians scattered abroad for various reasons? Read at least part of chapter one (1) and see why the first view, Jews in general, are unacceptable.

b. The symbolic interpretation speaks of God's elect.

These scattered twelve (12) Tribes represent the Christian Church, God's elect, living in a strange country, this world, far from their land of citizenship, heaven. The contents of the epistle itself strongly support the view that James' readers were Jewish Christians, wherever they were located. This would be expected, if the epistle was written at a very early date, for most Christians in the earliest days were Jews (Ac.chps.1-7).

3. The date James was written was approximately fifteen (15) years after the crucifixion.

The position of this study is that James was the earliest, or one of the earliest, New Testament Books to be written, around A.D. 45-50. The view of a later date places the writing of James around A.D. 60, a year or so before James' death. Reasons for the early date are three (3).

- a. Church Order and discipline in the Epistle is very simple.
- b. The Jerusalem Council of Acts 15, A.D. 48 or 49, was still future.

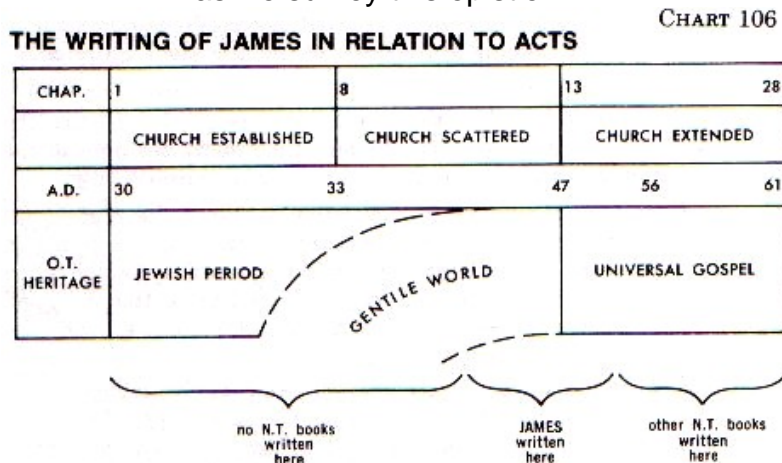
The question of the admission of the Gentiles, into the Church which in the earliest years was Jewish, seems not yet to have come to the forefront.

- c. Addressing the Laws of Judaism was James' concern.

The Judaic emphasis on law, moral principles, and works were the immediate concern of the first decades of the Church. It is very probable that James was living in Palestine when he wrote the epistle.

4. James occasion and purpose were varied.

Persecution of the Christians, unchristian conduct in speech by many Believers, and erroneous views on such doctrines as faith and sin were some of the circumstance that called for this epistle. The predominant part of James' epistle was written to correct evils and to teach right Christian behavior. There is also encouragement and exhortation in things such as the coming of the Lord (Ja.5:7). The epistle has been called "A Practical Guide to Christian Life and Conduct." More of James's purposes will be observed as we survey this epistle.



5. James emphasizes conduct more than creed.

For this reason, James has been called the "Apostle of good works." This is an identification linking him with the trio of John, "Apostle of love"; Paul, the "Apostle of faith"; and Peter, the "Apostle

of hope.” There is very little of a systematically presented theology in the book. Specific references to Jesus and the Gospel are few, although this does not take away from the Christian spirit that pervades the book. Of this, one man of God writes, “James says less about the Master than any other writer in the New Testament, but his speech is more like that of the Master than the speech of any of them.”

6. James’ style of writing is that of a Preacher’s sermon.

The Book of James is a letter, as its salutation indicates, but its style is more like that of a Preacher's sermon, or an Old Testament prophet's appeal. James writes in simple, straightforward sentences. Like Old Testament writings, and Jesus' discourses, there are no abstractions, and picture language abounds. Most of the sixty-three (63) Greek words unique to James' letter are picture words, such as poison, fade. The epistle bristles with strong, pointed truths, from the first word to the last.

7. James carries a tone of authority.

A tone of authority pervades the epistle. There are fifty-four (54) imperatives in the one hundred eight (108) verses. For this, James has been called “The Amos of the New Testament.” James’ forthrightness and severity are blended with warmth and love, evidenced by the repeated words “brethren,” and “beloved brethren.”

CHART 107

**VARIOUS OUTLINES OF JAMES**

	1:1	2:1	3:1	4:1	5:1
①	NATURE OF TRUE RELIGION	NATURE OF TRUE FAITH	3:13 NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM		5:19 PURPOSE OF WISDOM
②	LIVING FAITH TESTED BY TRIAL	LIVING FAITH PROVED BY WORKS	LIVING FAITH EVIDENCED BY CONDUCT		LIVING FAITH EXERCISED BY PERSECUTION
③	Test of Faith	Nature of Faith	Works of Faith	4:13 Application of Faith	



## **G. Prominent Subjects**

1. Faith and trials begins the discourse (1:1-18).

Recall that the hardships of persecution were part of the setting bringing forth this epistle. The fact that the first subject that James writes about is the hardship of trials tells us that this was a most pressing problem.

- a. Trials, v.2 - The Situation
- b. Testing, v.3a - The Test
- c. Endurance, vs.3b-4a - The Immediate Fruit
- d. Maturity, v.4b - The Ultimate Fruit

2. The faith that saves comes next (2:14-26).

James describes saving faith in different ways. The following outline shows some of those.

- a. Faith That Produces Works (2:14-18)
  - 1) Works are faith's partner (2:14-17).
  - 2) Works are faith's demonstrator (2:18).
- b. Faith That Comes From the Heart (2:19-26)
  - 1) It is not mere intellectual assent (2:19-20).
  - 2) It is heart obedience (2:21-26).

Read Romans 3:21-52 for Paul's teaching about justification by faith. Paul says a person is not justified by works (Ro.4:2,6), whereas in the present passage of James we read that Abraham was justified by works (2:21). Contradictory as the two (2) passages may appear, there is no problem when one considers the context and the perspective of each writer. Paul only denies works as the root of Salvation. He is not writing about Christian conduct as such, but about the way to becoming a Christian. James is not denying faith as the way of Salvation, but he is maintaining that works will issue from a faith that is genuine. One man of God writes: "Paul is looking at the root; James is looking at the fruit. Paul is talking about the beginning of the Christian life; James is talking about its continuance and consummation.

With Paul, the works he denounces precede faith and are dead works. With James, the faith he denounces is apart from works and is a dead faith.”

3. Next James deals with the tongue (3:1-12).

James 3:1-12 is a classic Scripture passage on the tongue. Notice the following outline as we study the various truths taught.

- a. 3:1-2 -The Subject of the Tongue Introduced
- b. 3:3-5a -The Influential Tongue
- c. 3:5b-6 -The Destructive Tongue
- d. 3:7-8 -The Untameable Tongue
- e. 3:9-12 -The Inconsistent Tongue

As we study this passage, we should reflect on what is involved in these activities: Thought, work, and action.

4. There were factions among the Christians (3:13-4:12).

The subject of the previous segment was the Christian and his speech; now it is the Christian and strife. When James wrote about the tongue, there was nothing mediocre in his tone. He well knew the awesome power of the tongue. When he writes in this passage about strife among Believers, his pen is at its sharpest and boldest: “You lust...you commit murder...you fight and quarrel” (4:2). What a tragic state of affairs, James must have thought, when joint heirs of the Prize of Peace are mauling each other to grab a selfish prize.

## **H. Applications**

Prayer, trials, lust, service to God, values, good works, faith, love, judging others, the tongue, brotherly love, impartiality, wealth, and the Lord's second coming are subjects to be applied.

### **I. Outline- James, Faith for Living**

1. Faith in Testing (1:1-18)
2. Faith at Work (1:19-4:12)

3. Doers of the Word (1:19-27)
4. The Case against Discrimination (2:1-13)
5. The Faith That Saves (2:14-26)
6. The Christian and His Tongue (3:1-12)
7. Evils of Faction among Christians (3:13-4:12)
8. Faith and the Future (4:13-5:12)
9. Faith and Christian Fellowship (5:13-20)

## **J. Synopsis**

This epistle does not easily lend itself to analysis, but most of the material may be arranged under two (2) headings: True Religion and False Religion.

1. The marks of true religion are several in James.
  - a. We are to have joy and patience in the midst of trials (1:1-4).
  - b. We are to have unwavering faith and singleness of mind (1:5-8).
  - c. We are to accept the providential allotments of life (1:9-11).
  - d. We are to endure temptation (1:12).
  - e. We are to recognize the sources of temptation and the results of yielding thereto (1:13-15).
  - f. We are to recognize the Divine source of all blessings (1:16-18).
  - g. We are to have spiritual hearing, deliberation in speech, and patience under provocation (1:19-20).
  - h. We are to forsake all evil, and accept saving truth (1:21).
  - i. We are to search after the truth and practice it (1:25).
  - j. We are to practice philanthropy and purity (1:27).

# Homework Section

*BNT- 215 General Epistles*  
*6<sup>th</sup> Revision, June 2008*  
*International College of Bible Theology*

## STUDENTS

**STUDENTS: If you are not born-again, please refer to the Salvation message at the beginning of you Course Commentary.**

Be sure to read the commentary thoroughly at least twice.

Please write your name on each homework sheet, each quiz, each exam, and on any other work that you submit.

Be sure to check grammar, spelling and sentence structure on all work you submit. Grading is based on homework, quizzes, exams, grammar, spelling, attendance, participation, etc.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READ: { The Bible as pertaining to the course and look up the  
{ Scriptures referred to in the commentary.  
{ Commentary and text books if required for the course.

COMPLETE: { Homework, which can be done open note. Answers to homework  
{ questions are found in the course commentary and/or Bible.  
{ Quizzes and exams are to be done by closed notes.  
{ Essay/term paper, if applicable, according to the  
{ requirements of the study level of the student.

HOMEWORK JAMES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. James portrays Christ in the context of late Messianic Judaism.

True or False

2. James teaches that one of the most difficult areas of our Christian life is that of \_\_\_\_.

- A. Testing
- B. Works
- C. Temptation
- D. Both A & C
- E. Both A & B

3. James is called the \_\_\_\_ of the New Testament.

- A. Psalms
- B. Proverbs
- C. Song
- D. Torah

4. James teaches that the trying of our faith is designed to produce mature endurance and a sense of dependence upon God.

True or False

5. We are to be swift to speak, slow to hear, slow to wrath.

True or False

6. \_\_\_\_ are harmful to the growth of faith.

- A. Strong pulls of worldliness
- B. Strong pulls of wealth
- C. Humility
- D. Both A & C
- E. Both A & B

7. Sin that is not dealt with has little effect toward illness or death.

True or False

8. Faith that “proves itself” is not a characteristic of faith.

True or False

9. James is not full of Godly wisdom.

True or False

10. James emphasizes more than any other New Testament book the necessary relationship between faith and \_\_\_\_.

- A. Humility
- B. Deeds
- C. Sin
- D. Endurance

11. There are \_\_\_\_ different New Testament men named James.

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 5
- D. 4

12. James was converted early in his childhood.

True or False

13. James was not considered a praying man.

True or False

14. James and Jesus were considered alike in personality.

True or False

15. According to Josephus, James’ death was by stoning.

True or False

16. James is considered one of the latest New Testament books written.

True or False

17. James was written to correct evil and to teach wrong Christian behavior.

True or False

18. James is called a “protected guide” to Christian life and conduct.

True or False

19. If Paul is called the “Apostle of faith” and Peter the “Apostle of hope,” James should be called the “Apostle of \_\_\_\_\_”

20. James is not straightforward in his writing.

True or False

21. James writes with a tone of authority.

True or False

22. If endurance is called the immediate fruit, maturity should be called the \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Works could be considered faith's \_\_\_\_.

- A. Associate
- B. Partner
- C. Hardship
- D. None of the above

24. James teaches that faith without works is considered \_\_\_\_.

- A. Holiness
- B. Dead
- C. Alive
- D. Not necessary

25. James teaches in the \_\_\_\_ areas of the tongue.

- A. Conjecture
- B. Constructive
- C. Untamable
- D. None of the above

26. James teaches about the Christian and strife.

True or False

27. Most of James' teaching can be arranged under \_\_\_\_ headings.

- A. True religion
- B. False religion
- C. Prophecy
- D. A & C
- E. A & B

28. Good works could be described as a demonstration of faith.

True or False

29. We are to show more honor to the rich than to the poor.

True or False

30. In James' warnings, he does not tell us to avoid murmuring.

True or False

31. Testing of our faith will develop \_\_\_\_.

- A. Persevering faith
- B. Proven character
- C. Mature hope
- D. All of the above

32. The spiritual capacity to see and evaluate life's conduct from God's point of view is called \_\_\_\_.

- A. Instruction
- B. Godly wisdom
- C. Earthly wisdom
- D. Natural ability

33. Concerning moral filth, give a list or write a paragraph on how we can keep filth out of our life. Answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Student Answer

34. The freedom that God intends, for the Believer, is one that brings freedom and power to be \_\_\_\_.

- A. Obey God's Law
- B. Disobedient servants
- C. Do our own thing
- D. Live as we wish

35. James teaches pure religion, or true Christianity, is \_\_\_\_.

- A. Genuine love for those in need
- B. Keeping ourselves holy before God
- C. Concern for self
- D. Both A & B
- E. Both A & C

36. James teaches that we are not to show favoritism to individuals whatever the reason, but that God looks upon the individual's heart.

In your own words, why does God look upon our heart? Answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Student Answer

37. James teaches that true faith must be an active and enduring faith that shapes our very existence.

True or False

38. Deeds without faith are dead deeds.

True or False

39. Paul and James state emphatically that true soaring faith will initially produce deeds of \_\_\_\_.

- A. Hope
- B. Denial
- C. Love
- D. Transgression

40. James teaches that the tongue is a fire. In your own words give examples of how we can sin with our tongue. Answer on a separate sheet of paper

Student Answer

41. Selfish ambition in the Church is described as \_\_\_\_.

- A. Heavenly
- B. Unspiritual
- C. Of the Angels
- D. None of the above

42. Friendship with the world involves embracing the world's \_\_\_\_.

- A. Sin
- B. Value
- C. Evil pleasures
- D. All of the above

43. There is nothing wrong with secret orders or lodge memberships.

True or False

44. God promises to come near all those who turn from sin.

True or False

45. It is good to boast about the goals we have met.

True or False

46. Perseverance indicates endurance in whatever trials we may face without losing our \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

47. James 5:15 states that \_\_\_\_\_ offered in \_\_\_\_\_ will make the sick person well.

48. James says that sickness is never due to sin.

True or False

49. How many references are there concerning prayer of a righteous man \_\_\_\_?

- A. 13
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 17

50. God does not deal with His children according to Divine providence, interaction with, and responding to the prayer of the righteousness.

True or False

51. James teaches that if one should wander, the Believer should not be concerned.

True or False

52. The Believer who turns a back- slider to God will save the sinner from \_\_\_\_.

- A. Life
- B. Death
- C. Hope
- F. Christ

53. The testing of our faith produces impatience.

True or False

54. Obedience to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God brings about the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

55. We can evaluate in what areas we have faith by our actions, whether we believe or are in unbelief.

True or False

56. Nothing can cause more damage than the \_\_\_\_\_.

57. One way to bridle our tongue, is to monitor every word we speak.

True or False

58. James invites us to \_\_\_\_\_ action in developing humility.

- A. Be quick to hear
- B. Be slow to hear
- C. Be quick to confess
- D. None of the above

59. God calls us to put material goods into proper perspective and to use them wisely under his direction.

True or False

60. The key to joyful, purposeful, powerful living cannot be found in James.

True or False

61. Another word for hypocrisy is \_\_\_\_.

- A. Love
- B. double-mindedness
- C. Hopelessness
- D. Hatred

62. A candid look deep within ourselves will reveal our own struggles with hypocrisy.

True or False

63 Discuss, in your own words, James Chapter 3. Think about the power of the tongue. Ask yourself, "Where your wisdom comes from." Answer of a separate sheet of paper.

Student Answer



## HOMEWORK I PETER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Sanctification of the Believer includes \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Trials for the present
- B. Conduct in suffering
- C. Desiring the pure milk of the Word
- D. All of the above

2. The Believer is not to be submissive in any area of life.

True or False

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is our perfect example in suffering.

4. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Believer.

5. The basic theme of I Peter is the proper \_\_\_\_\_ to Christian suffering.

6. Peter teaches us to overcome the attitude of bitterness and anxiety, replacing them with \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Dependence on God
- B. Hate
- C. Confidence in God
- D. Both A & B
- E. Both A & C

7. I Peter's letter logically proceeds through the theme of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Salvation of the Believer
- B. Submission of the Believer
- C. Suffering of the Believer
- D. All of the above

8. The proper response to salvation for the Believer is the pursuit of sanctification.

True or False

9. The Christian should suffer for unrighteousness.

True or False

10. As Believers, we are to "commit our souls to God in \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Peter teaches that Believers are to clothes themselves with \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Pride
- B. Anxiety
- C. Humility
- D. Comfort

12. Paul wrote the least number of New Testament books and Peter wrote the largest number of New Testament books.

True or False

13. The biography of Peter's life can be divided into how many periods?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

14. Peter and John preached and performed with such mighty power because of their schooling.

True or False

15. Peter's trade was that of a \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Peter, James and John were of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Outer circle
- B. Jesus friend
- C. Inner circle
- D. Brotherhood

17. The most active and eventful period of Peter's life was during the years of the first \_\_\_\_\_ chapters of Acts.

18. Which of the following is not one of Peter's accomplishments?

- A. Leader of the twelve apostles
- B. Powerful preacher
- C. Miracle worker
- D. Apostle to the Gentiles
- E. Established churches with Paul
- F. Speaker at the Jerusalem Council

19. Peter in Acts is a different character than the Peter in the Gospels, but his basic temperament is essentially the same.

True or False

20. Various character traits have been attributed to Peter, all of which are positive.  
True or False

21. Peter's letter was written to various Romans provinces such as Pontus and Galatia.  
True or False

22. First Peter was probably written around A.D. 64  
True or False

23. The Christians addressed by Peter were experiencing fiery trials for their faith through \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Slander of fellow citizens  
B. State persecution  
C. False leadership  
D. Both A & B  
E. Both A & C

24. Peter wrote this letter to assure that persecution would not come.  
True or False

25. Peter teaches that the Christian pilgrimage on earth should include \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Being holy  
B. Fearing God  
C. Loving one another  
D. All of the above

26. Which one of the following is not what Peter writes about the correct attitudes in Christian suffering?  
A. Attitude of goodness in action  
B. Attitude of disobedience  
C. Attitude of newness in life  
D. Attitude of separation in living  
E. Attitude of service in suffering

27. Peter relates that a living hope is centered in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

28. A Divine power by which saints are kept victorious in the midst of sufferings is through faith.  
True or False

29. Christ is the Chief Corner Stone. We are to become \_\_\_\_\_ stones.

30. Long life and answers to prayer are promised to those who continue in evil.  
True or False

31. Suffering for Christ is not to be endured joyfully.  
True or False

32. There are \_\_\_\_ references to Christ in First Peter.  
A. 2                      B. 6  
C. 8                      D. 4

33. There are \_\_\_\_ precious things found in First Peter.  
A. 4                      B. 6  
C. 7                      D. 5

34. The theme of I Peter is that of \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of severe trials.

35. Such hope comes from a firm \_\_\_\_\_ in the God of all grace.

36. The trials of I Peter are trials of \_\_\_\_\_, trials of \_\_\_\_\_ and trials of \_\_\_\_\_.

37. The \_\_\_\_\_ are the company of \_\_\_\_\_ chosen in harmony with God's determination to redeem the church by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ through the \_\_\_\_\_ by sanctifying works.

38. The essential condition required for God's protection is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Unbelief  
B. Works  
C. Faith  
D. Determination

39. We must rejoice in our trials.  
True or False

40. According to Jesus, there is a special blessing for "those who have not seen and yet have \_\_\_\_\_.

41. Holiness carries the thought of being separated from the ungodly ways of the world and set apart for love and service only.  
True or False

42. As born again children of God we should long for the “pure milk” of God's Word.  
True or False

43. We must not be alert to a loss of hunger and thirst for God's Word.  
True or False

44. Hunger for God's Word can be lost through wrong attitudes and choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures.  
True or False

45. As Believers, we are God's own possession which sets us \_\_\_\_\_ from the people of this world to become \_\_\_\_\_ to this world. As such our true \_\_\_\_\_ is with Christ in heaven.

46. Suffering with Christ is called suffering \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. According to man's will  
B. For His name  
C. For the world  
D. For what is wrong

47. Suffering for Christ is a way to arrive at \_\_\_\_\_, to obtain \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

48. Christ bore our \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, becoming our \_\_\_\_\_ by taking on \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins.

49. The purpose for this substitutionary death was that we might be totally separated from sin's guilt, power, and influence.  
True or False

50. Peter uses the word \_\_\_\_\_ in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ with all the \_\_\_\_\_.

51. Peter writes to both husbands and wives.  
True or False

52. Peter says that husbands should treat their wives with respect because they are equal heirs of God.  
True or False

53. Peter calls for an \_\_\_\_\_ for, and \_\_\_\_\_ to, \_\_\_\_\_ as Lord that is always \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ for Him and to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

54. There are no passages difficult to interpret in First Peter.  
True or False

55. Water baptism saves us in a sense that is an \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ to come out of the world.

56. Those who willingly suffer for Christ's cause find it easier to follow God's Will.  
True or False

57. We are to be obedient to God only when it doesn't involve suffering, ridicule, or rejection.  
True or False

58. Through painful trials God allows us to share in His sufferings and forms within us the quality of character He desires.  
True or False

59. We are to judge sin in our own lives.  
True or False

60. The word “clothe” means “to attach a piece of clothing to oneself.” Peter exhorts us to tie on the “cloth of humility” on ourselves in order to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. To be identified as Believers in Christ as we act humbly towards others.  
B. To show a badge of authority  
C. To receive God's grace and help  
D. All of the above  
E. Both A & C

61. God does not care for the troubles of every one of His children is a truth emphasized throughout His Word.  
True or False

62. Our lively hope will be fulfilled in Jesus return.

True or False

63. There was no suffering for the Christian until Nero unleashed his persecution.

True or False

64. Being “kept by the power of God” means “a military guard.”

True or False

65. God’s people become a royal priesthood and a holy nation.

True or False

66. It is not possible for a righteous man to do good and suffer.

True or False

67. Peter declared that Christ preached to spirits in prison.

True or False

68. Christians should always be astonished because of fiery trials.

True or False

69. Silas was the writer of First Peter.

True or False

70 In I Peter submission is discussed in several areas. Discuss, in your own words, what is meant by “submission.” Answer you question on a separate sheet of paper. Your answer should not exceed 1 page.

Student Answer

71. Read I Peter 2:24: Is healing part of the Atonement or Salvation Plan? Why or why not? Discuss, in your own words and in essay form. Answer on a separate sheet of paper. Your answer should not exceed 1 page.

Student Answer

HOMEWORK II PETER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Second Peter can be outlined into three areas, designated by cultivation, condemnation, and confidence.

True or False

2. Second Peter teaches the cultivation of Christian character, which includes growth in Christ.

True or False

3. Peter wrote his second letter from Rome around A.D. 67.

True or False

4. First Peter teaches about opposition \_\_\_\_\_ the group, while Second Peter teaches about opposition \_\_\_\_\_ the group.

5. Peter was convinced that an \_\_\_\_\_ of God was an antidote to false teaching and apostasy.

6. The person who knows God acts on this knowledge.

True or False

7. Peter cited three supernatural events that originated by decree.

True or False

8. Peter does not use the term "Lord" in Second Peter.

True or False

9. The basic theme that runs through II Peter is the contrast between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, versus \_\_\_\_\_.

10. This epistle was written to expose the dangerous and seductive works of \_\_\_\_\_ teachers.

11. The best defense against spiritual counterfeits is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Listen to everyone
- B. Growth to spiritual maturity
- C. Look to the world
- D. All of the above

12. Second Peter stresses the need for \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

13. We have been called away from the corruption of the world to conformity to Christ, and Peter urges us to progress by forging a chain of \_\_\_\_\_ Christian virtues from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (II Peter 5:7).

Second Peter 1:5-7 states we are to add to our faith a total of 8 virtues. Name them from your Bible.

- 14. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. \_\_\_\_\_

22. Peter states that this letter is designed to stir up the minds of Believers by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Asking others for help
- B. Way of reminder
- C. Asking leaders in the church
- D. All of the above

23. Peter rebukes scoffers by stating three catastrophic events (II Peter 3:17). Which are of these events has not come to pass?

- A. The creation
- B. The flood
- C. The dissolution of the present heaven on earth

24. In light of the coming Day of the Lord, Peter exhorts his readers to live lives of holiness, steadfastness, and growth.

True or False