

"James #5"

James 2:1- 7 (Favoritism and Choosing the Poor)

Review: James 1: 22 - 27 (NASB) – Last week I used the ESV...

James 1:22 -25 (NASB) Read

- We are able to be doers of the law, because of the *implanted word* in our hearts.
- Jesus kept the law on our behalf, *kept it perfectly, hence He was crucified unjustly...*
- The law of liberty, *the perfect law. Was Kept and fulfilled by Christ Jesus!*

V25 (another translation)

"But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does."

- **THE PERFECT LAW... IS JESUS!**

Robert Heller: *"Now we are free! But here is the ironic part: we are free to keep the law! What does that mean? It means that since the law no longer condemns us, we no longer have to fear it... We look to the law to see how it is we can live as those who have been given a new life of freedom in Christ Jesus."*

Matthew 11: 28 – 30 (NKJV) Read

- **Question:** what qualifies you to come to Jesus?
- **V28:** *"All who labor and are heavy laden!"...* (Laden with sin and the trials of life)

James 1:26 – 27 (NASB) Read – True Religion

- Religion has become a bad word in our culture today...
- God cares for and looks after His people...*those that are poor, broken, distraught, those oppressed by sins and life's circumstances.* (This is a recurring theme in James)
- **As His ambassadors,** we too are to care for those in need and hurting!

(I have found there is no better cure for life's trials and pain, than to help someone else.)

Tonight's Study: James 2: 1 – 4 (ESV) Read

V1: (NASB) "My brethren do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism."

- James is writing to a congregation where the rich are considered more blessed by God than the poor. *As many churches are today, financial prosperity is considered spiritual.*
- They were showing more respect and granted prominence to the rich.

(Jesus became poor and lowly for our sake... He spent time with sinners and the hurting...)

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Galatians 3:26 – 29 (NKJV) Read - *Baptized into Christ we are all one*

V4: (NKJV) "Have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"

(NSAB) "Have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?"

Text James 2: 5 – 7 (ESV) Read

Story of a pastor's final sermon, he was to introduce the new pastor... (YouTube) Homeless man...

- In our world we have a tendency to categorize people in order to keep ourselves safe. We stay away from those that are different from us.
- Such a worldly attitude has no place in the church.
- **God has chosen the poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith.**
- **Faith is true wealth!**

I would like to close by re-reading V's 6 and 7

- ***Blaspheme... can be translated, "Slander the honorable name by which you are called"***
- **Comments or thoughts? What do you think?**