

Practical Christianity

Part 2

James 3-5

We continue this month to look at being a Christian in a practical way from the book of James. This practical 5-chapter book goes into a variety of issues that was plaguing the church 2000 years ago and affecting us now. This lesson is part two of the practical study and will cover the last half from the book of James. This lesson like the previous one will be broken into two main sections. The first will be a direct relation to the Bible. Then the second part will cover those areas in a personal manner. The goal is to take what we read and then apply the lessons we learn in a practical means. After all, when we talk about food, you will not get full from a theoretical meal but will feel satisfied when eating real food. Let's treat the Bible the same way and eat spiritually of the good book we call, The Bible.

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1) What warning was given at the beginning of chapter 3?

James 3:1-2

2) The tongue is used as a metaphor. What does James say about the tongue and what message is he trying to convey to us?

James 3:3-12

3) What is the difference between wisdom from God and earth?

James 3:13-18

4) When James was talking to the church, he mentions of wars and fights from within. What was the source of these terrible behaviors towards one another?

James 4:1-3

5) What can bring us against God?

James 4:4-5

6) How can we resist having a prideful heart and mind?

James 4:6-10

7) What advice is given in the verses below and why?

James 4:11-12

8) The chapter ends with another word of advice. What is it that James implores us to do and why?

James 4:13-17

9) There is a warning to those who are rich oppressors. What is it and in what ways can this apply to anyone who oppresses another for gain?

James 5:1-6

10) What quality or behavior should we have? What examples does James use to strengthen this point?

James 5:7-11

11) What counsel is given regarding our speech?

James 5:12

12) List some of the actions we should do as an individual and church (group).

James 5:13-20

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

A) Whom is James trying to encourage when he singled out the rich oppressors? What lessons can we apply to our church?

B) Pride is a huge problem that causes strife between people. Why is this human behavior cause problems in a group? Are there instances when having pride a positive thing? If so when and why?

C) There is a big delineation between heavenly and earthly wisdom. Why would earthly wisdom be considered evil? What steps can we take to make sure we are getting our wisdom from God?

D) We live in an instant society. Everything is ready made for us to be fast and in a hurry. Because of this sometimes, that leaks in to our interpretation of the Bible and our faith. In spite of this, what methods can we take to make sure that patience is a strong and present virtue in your behavior?

E) James gives many examples on how the tongue can be dangerous. Why is what we say tough to control? What are practical ways for us to control our tongues and speech?