



Slave of Christ

1st in the “James” Series

James 1:1

April 23, 2023

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, we are introduced to the Letter of James and the opening “greeting” of the book.

The Text: James 1:1

1) The Letter of James: A Brief Introduction.

2) This book is written by a slave of God to give wisdom to the people of God (James 1:1).

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

John 7:1-5 – ¹After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. ²But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, ³Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. ⁴No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” ⁵For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

John 5:36-47 ³⁶... For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life. ... ⁴⁵“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. ⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. ⁴⁷But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

Response

Lord, minister to us, your honored servants/slaves, as we begin this sermon series through the Letter of James.

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 1) James, the author of the Letter of James, was the (half-) brother of Jesus who did not believe in him during his ministry (see John 7:5) and yet, in 1:1, calls himself a “servant/slave” of Christ. How do you think such a transformation might have taken place in James’ life?

- 2) If James is a servant/slave of Christ, should not all Christians consider themselves as such? If so, what does it look like to be a “slave of Christ?”

- 3) The Letter of James is a form of wisdom literature that “wants to get in your business and challenge how you live.” What does that mean, exactly, and how should that direct how you read and respond to the Letter of James?

- 4) What impressions do you have about the Letter of James, and what can you do to prepare for the Lord to minister to you in the next several months as our church works through James?

- 5) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week’s text: 2 Timothy 2:24 (Mon); 1 Peter 2:16 (Tues); Colossians 1:17 (Wed); Revelation 1:1 (Thurs); Revelation 22:3 (Fri).