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James

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James

Chapter 1

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that {are} in the dispersion: Rejoice!
²Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴But let endurance have a perfect work, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing.
⁵Now if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask from God, who gives to all generously and not reproaching, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing, for the one who doubts has become like a wave of the sea, wind-blown and tossed. ⁷For let that man not think that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸a double-minded man, unsettled in all his ways. ⁹Now let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰but the rich in his lowliness, because he will pass away like a flower of the grass. ¹¹For the sun rose with heat and dried up the grass, and its flower fell off and the beauty of its face perished. Thus also the rich will wither in his journeys. ¹²Blessed {is} the man who endures trial. For, becoming approved, he will receive the crown of life, which he promised to the ones who love him. ¹³Let no one being tempted say, "I am tempted by God," because God is untempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each is tempted by his own desire, dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then desire, having conceived, bears sin, and sin, having grown up, gives birth to death. ¹⁶Do not be led astray, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good present and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no change or shadow of turning. ¹⁸Having willed, he gave birth to us by the word of truth, for us to be something like a firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹Know, my beloved brothers: But let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. ²⁰For the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore, laying aside all filth and abundance of wickedness, in humility receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word and not only hearers, deluding yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man beholding the face of his birth in a mirror. ²⁴For he beheld himself and went away and immediately forgot of what sort he was. ²⁵But the one having gazed into the perfect law of freedom and having continued, not having become a hearer of forgetfulness, but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in his doing. ²⁶If anyone thinks to be religious, not bridling his tongue, but deceiving his heart, the religion of that one {is} worthless. ²⁷Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to look upon orphans and widows in their distress, to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Chapter 2

¹My brothers, do not with favoritism have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory. ²For if a gold-ringed man in splendid clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor one in filthy clothing also comes in, ³and you look at the one wearing splendid clothing and say, "You sit here well," and to the poor one you say, "You stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," ⁴have you not distinguished among yourselves and become judges of evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, did not God choose the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to the ones who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor! Do not the rich overpower you and themselves drag you into court? ⁷Do they not blaspheme the good name that has been called upon you? ⁸If, however, you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You will love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. ⁹But if you favor, you are committing sin, convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever might keep the whole law but stumble in one thing has become guilty of all. ¹¹For the one who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If, then, you do not commit adultery but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²Thus speak and thus act, as ones who are going to be judged by means of the law of freedom. ¹³For judgment {is} merciless to those who have not done mercy. Mercy boasts against judgment.

¹⁴What {would be} the profit, my brothers, if someone said he had faith, but he did not have works? Faith is not able to save him, is it? ¹⁵If a brother or sister were unclothed and lacking daily food, ¹⁶and one of you said to them, "Go in peace, warm yourself and be satisfied," but you did not give them the necessary things for the body, what {would be} the profit? ¹⁷Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith from works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe, and they tremble. ²⁰But do you wish to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is idle?^[1] ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²²You see that faith was working with his works and faith was perfected from works. ²³And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness," and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a man is justified from works and not from faith alone. ²⁵And similarly was not Rahab the prostitute also justified from works, having welcomed the messengers and having sent them away by another road? ²⁶For just as the body without the spirit is dead, thus also faith without works is dead.

2:20 ^[1]

Chapter 3

¹Do not become many teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive greater judgment. ²For we all stumble much. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle even the whole body. ³Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses for them to obey us, we also turn their whole body. ⁴Behold also the ships, being so large and driven by strong winds, it is turned by the smallest rudder where the inclination of the one steering desires. ⁵Thus also the tongue is a small member, but it boasts great things. Behold how small a fire kindles so large a forest. ⁶The tongue is also a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is placed among our members, the thing staining the whole body and setting the course of existence on fire, and it is set on fire by Gehenna. ⁷For every kind, both of beasts and birds, both of reptiles and marine animals, is being tamed and has been tamed by the human kind. ⁸But none of men is able to tame the tongue, an unsettled evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have come into being according to the likeness of God. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. It is not necessary, my brothers, for these things to happen thus. ¹¹A spring does not gush the sweet and the bitter from the same opening, does it? ¹²A fig tree is not able to make olives, is it, my brothers, or a grapevine, figs? Nor salty to make sweet water.

¹³Who {is} wise and understanding among you? Let him show his works from good conduct in the humility of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but {it is} earthly, soulish, demonic. ¹⁶For where {there is} jealousy and ambition, there {is} unsettledness and every wicked deed. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, cooperative, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, sincere. ¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Chapter 4

¹From where {are} wars and from where {are} battles among you? {Are they} not from there, from your lusts, which fight in your members? ²You covet, and you do not have. You kill and envy, and you are not able to obtain. You battle and war. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and you do not receive, because you ask badly, so that you may spend on your lusts. ⁴Adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world is made an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the scripture says vainly, "The Spirit whom he caused to live in us longs with jealousy"? ⁶But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble." ⁷Be submitted, therefore, to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Cleanse {your}

hands, sinners, and purify {your} hearts, double-minded. ⁹Be miserable and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be changed into mourning, and {your} joy into gloom. ¹⁰Be humbled before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Do not speak against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. ¹²The lawgiver and judge is one, the one who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you, the one judging a neighbor?

¹³Come now, the ones saying, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to this city and do a year there and trade and gain." ¹⁴You who do not know the thing of tomorrow, what {is} your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little and then disappears. ¹⁵Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wishes, we will both live and do this or that." ¹⁶But now you are boasting in your pretensions. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore to the one having known to do good and not doing it, to him it is sin.

Chapter 5

¹Come now, the rich, weep, wailing because of your coming miseries. ²Your wealth has rotted and your clothes have become moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver have been tarnished, and their rust will be for a testimony against you and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up in the last days. ⁴Behold, the pay of the workers who have reaped your fields, which has been withheld from you, is crying out, and the cries of the ones harvesting have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵You have lived luxuriously on the earth and have lived self-indulgently. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned, you have killed the righteous. He does not resist you.

⁷Therefore, wait patiently, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer awaits the valuable fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and the late. ⁸You also wait patiently. Strengthen your hearts, because the coming of the Lord has come near. ⁹Do not complain, brothers, against one another, so that you may be not judged. Behold, the judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰Take an example, brothers, of the suffering and the patience of the prophets, those who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we call blessed those who have endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is greatly compassionate and merciful.

¹²But before all, my brothers, do not swear, neither by heaven nor by the earth, nor by any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes" and "No," "No," so that you may not fall under judgment.

¹³Is anyone among you suffering hardship? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him summon the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up. And if he may have committed sins, it will be forgiven to him. ¹⁶Therefore, confess {your} sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The working prayer of the righteous {is} very strong. ¹⁷Elijah was a man of similar passions to us, and he prayed with prayer for it not to rain, and it did not rain upon the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.

¹⁹My brothers, if anyone among you may have been led astray from the truth and someone turns him back, ²⁰let him know that the one who turns back a sinner from the wandering of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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