



# JAMES

PRACTICAL LIVING

DIGITAL GUIDE

# W E L C O M E

This digital guide has been created to be the hub for all things related to Practical Living. In the guide you will find weekly video sermons, videos, resources, and other helpful things for this series. We hope that you enjoy and use this resource to further study our sermon series.

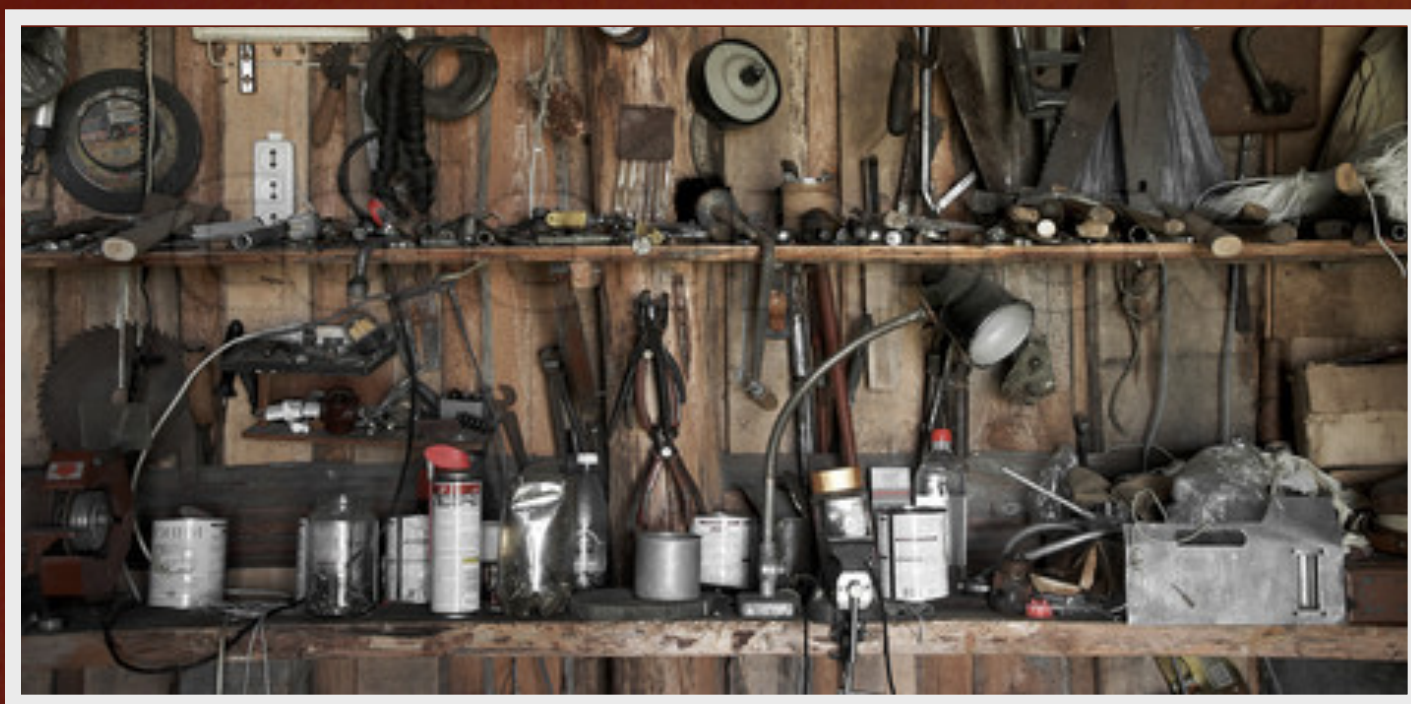


## W H Y J A M E S ?

Our mission as a church, is to Mature & Multiply. The primary theme of James is to illustrate what genuine faith looks like, which, in essence, is Christian maturity. James is full of practical teaching on how to lead a godly life. The topics covered in James should help further develop our new and young church family into deeper maturity in Christ.

# ABOUT JAMES

James is perhaps one of the most memorable and practical books in the New Testament. It is filled with helpful illustrations and examples of what a believer in Jesus should look like. In fact, many scholars have struggled with the practical nature of this epistle. The great reformer Martin Luther called it an “epistle of straw” because it was seemingly works-based due to its heavy emphasis on how a believer ought to live. However, once we grasp the authorial intent of this book we will see that the purpose of the epistle is to encourage authentic faith in the life of every Christian.



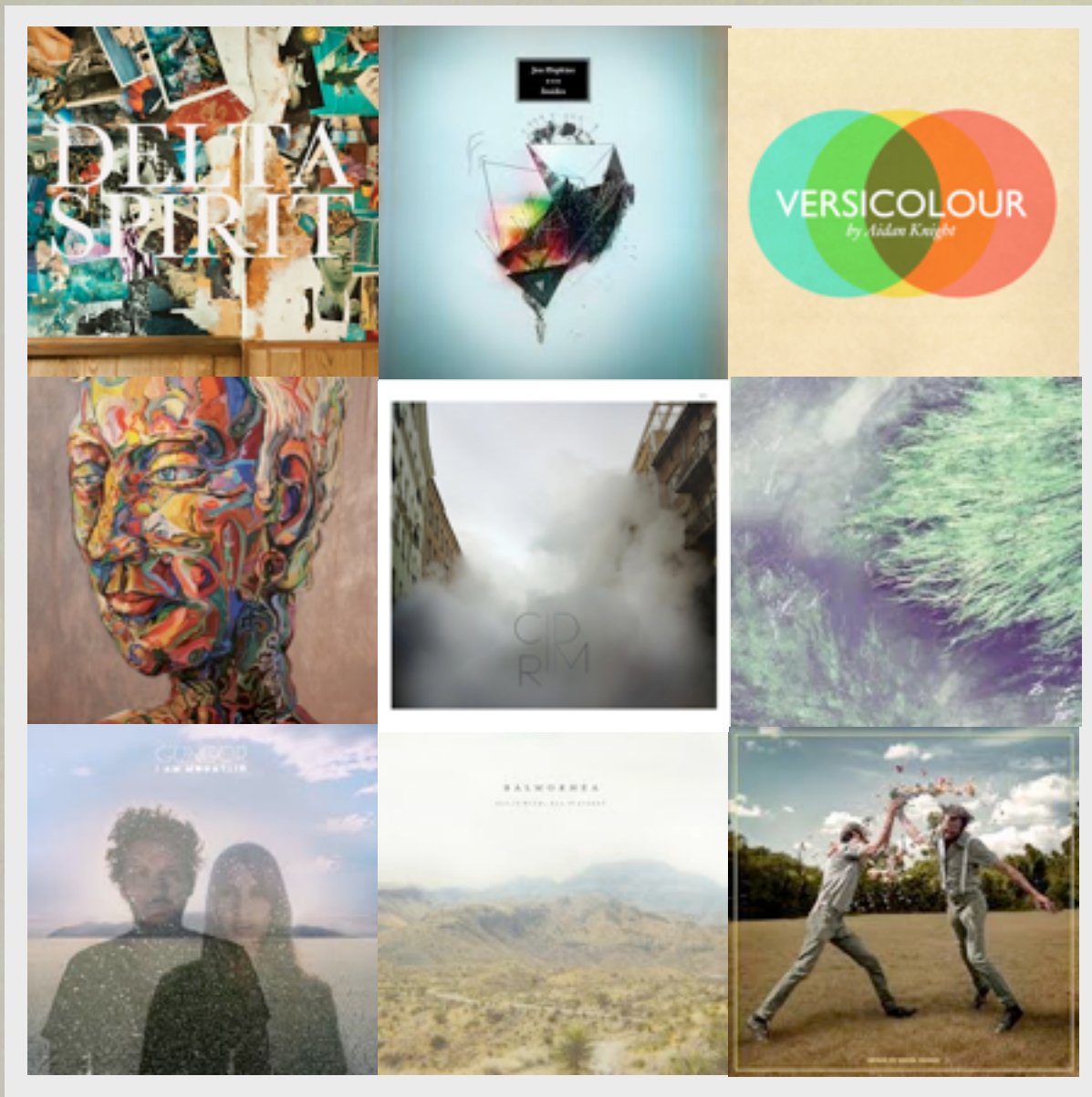
## **AUTHOR & DATE**

The title of this book comes from the name of its author. There are several men who go by the name “James” in the New Testament. However, this epistle was written by James, the brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:35) and leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15), around A.D. 48-49.

## **SETTING & PURPOSE**

This book was written to scattered Jewish Christians who were under persecution and poverty. These Christians were dispersed into house churches and scattered into 12 tribes outside of Palestine. As a result of these troubling circumstances, conflict in the church emerges. James writes in order to encourage believers in how they are to interact with one another. His goal is to practically show them how to live in response to the Gospel.

# SERIES PLAYLIST



We've made a playlist of songs that have inspired our pastors and staff in the creating of this series. These songs match the feel and tone of the series itself. We hope these songs, which you will also hear before and after Sunday services, prepare your hearts to sing, study, pray and worship.

[LISTEN TO THE PLAYLIST](#)

# WEEK NINE

## THE SIN OF PARTIALITY



### THIS WEEKS SERMON

[LISTEN NOW](#)

James just encouraged his readers with the idea of the "perfect law" or "the law of liberty". Throughout the New Testament this concept is known as the Law of Christ which is what causes a believer to love God and love others. The new heart leads to a generous heart. So, at the end of chapter one, James gives his audience a few examples of how they can love others. In contrast, chapter 2 challenges believers to not show partiality among one another because it doesn't display a genuine faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, James gives examples of how believers ought to treat one another in response to the Gospel.

## RESOURCES

[NO PARTIALITY](#)

## SCRIPTURE

**JAMES 2:1-7**

# WEEK TEN

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## THE SIN OF PARTIALITY, Pt. 2



### THIS WEEKS SERMON

[LISTEN NOW](#)

In chapter 2, verse 8, James continues his discussion of the new and better law that now reigns in the lives of believers. James has called this the law of liberty, or law of Christ up until now, but in verse 8 he refers to it as “the royal law”. What a beautiful reminder for believers that we are no longer under the old law that was a harsh school master, but rather under the new royal law of King Jesus. James goes on in verses 9-13 to set the royal law up in opposition to the sin of partiality. Basically, showing partiality or “loving” someone for personal gain is directly opposed to the law of Christ. Jesus teaches in the parable of the good samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) that we are to love our neighbor. He then goes on to extend the definition of neighbor beyond our family, our neighborhoods, and our countries, and even goes as far as to include our enemies. Love under the royal law is clearly something very different than our natural inclinations. It seems that this kind of love extends to those who are different than us at school and work, and even to the foreigner. The law of King Jesus prompts us to love freely, and without expecting anything in return. This is the royal law, and this law of love shows no partiality.

## RESOURCES

[NO PARTIALITY](#)

## SCRIPTURE

**JAMES 2:8-13**

# WEEK ELEVEN

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FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD



James 2:14-19 is one of the most controversial sections of scripture, and in these few verses, James makes some of the most striking statements in all of scripture. The main idea of this passage is captured in verse 17 when James says, " So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Basically, if it's just lip service, it's a waste. If you just gain knowledge, and it never changes the way you live, that knowledge is useless and it cannot save you.

One of the chief rules of interpreting hard passages like this is that scripture interprets scripture. A brief study of Ephesians 2: 1-10 shows us that while we are saved BY grace, through faith, we are saved FOR good works that God has already prepared. Paul, in Ephesians, is saying the same thing James is in chapter 2 verse 14-19. A true believer will have good works, not as a means of salvation, but as an evidence of it.

James then says in verse 19, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!". Harkening his readers back to the Jewish Shema, from Deuteronomy 6:4 (that would have been repeated many times a day by devout Jews), James basically says, "I'm glad you have good theology, but so do the demons". Faith that does not lead to action is not saving faith at all. Faith that does not change you and lead to good works is not saving faith, it is demonic faith.

RESOURCES

HOW FAITH WORKS

SCRIPTURE

**JAMES 2:14-19**

# WEEK TWELVE

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## FAITH & ACTION



In chapter 2, verses 20-26, James continues his explanation of the relationship between faith and works. In verse 20 he reiterates that faith apart from works is useless. This is a shallow and empty faith, it has no substance, and as we have already learned, it is not saving faith. James then drives the point home by giving two Old Testament examples; one a patriarch, and the other a prostitute. Abraham showed his faith by being will to sacrifice his son, the son God had promised him, at God's instruction. At the last minute God stopped Abraham and provided a ram to sacrifice, but the point had been made; Abraham had saving faith, and his actions had revealed that. Rahab the prostitute put her life on the line by lying to protect two spies from Israel. In so doing, she showed her faith in God by her actions. In these two contrasting examples we clearly see that it is not about the person, it is about the Savior. It is about the gift of righteousness and saving faith, that can only be given by God himself.

The question for us is, how are we devoting ourselves to good works? How are we showing our faith in Christ, by positioning our lives around the gospel. Our works will never save us, or gain us an ounce of favor with God, but true saving faith will always show itself in our works.

## RESOURCES

**GOOD WORKS &  
SANCTIFICATION**

## SCRIPTURE

**JAMES 2:20-26**