

James 1:1-4

Introduction:

1. We are beginning a study of James, a practical letter that deals with some important subjects relating to Christianity.
2. Outline:
 - a. (1:1) Introduction
 - b. (1:2-18) Facing temptations
 - c. (1:19-27) Hearing and doing the Word
 - d. (2:1-13) Impartiality toward all
 - e. (2:14-26) Faith that works
 - f. (3:1-12) Dangers of the tongue
 - g. (3:13-18) True and false wisdom
 - h. (4:1-10) Worldliness and pride
 - i. (4:11-12) Consideration for brethren
 - j. (4:13-5:6) Unchristian conduct
 - k. (5:7-18) Patience in affliction
 - l. (5:19-20) Saving the erring brother

Discussion:

- I. (1:1) INTRODUCTION
 - A. (vs.1a) The writer is identified as "*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.*"
 1. At least 3 men in the New Testament wore this name, including:
 - a. James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John (Matthew 4:21-22)
 - 1) He was an apostle (Matthew 10:2).
 - 2) He was 1 of the 3 apostles closest to the Lord (Matthew 17:1-2).
 - 3) He was beheaded by Herod (Acts 12:1-2).
 - b. James, the son of Alphaeus
 - 1) He was an apostle (Matthew 10:3).
 - 2) He was also called "*James the less*" (Mark 15:40).
 - c. James, the brother of Christ (Mark 6:3).
 - 1) At one time James did not believe in Jesus (John 7:5).
 - 2) However, James saw Jesus after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7).
 - 3) (Acts 1:13-14) He and his brothers were associated with the apostles in Jerusalem.
 - 4) James eventually became a leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-20; 21:17-18; Galatians 2:9).
 2. Conservative scholars generally agree that James, the Lord's brother, wrote this letter.
 - B. (vs.1b) This letter is addressed "*to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad.*"
 1. Similar language is sometimes used in reference to Christians (1 Peter 1:1-2).
 2. (Acts 8:4) Persecution had caused many Christians to "scatter" forth from Jerusalem.
 3. James addressed his letter to Christians scattered throughout the world.
 - C. (vs.1c) James expressed his "*greeting*" to the readers of his letter.
- II. (1:2-4) THE VALUE OF TRIALS
 - A. (vs.2) We are to count it all joy when we fall into various temptations.
 1. "Temptation" may be:
 - a. an enticement to commit sin (vs.14)
 - b. a trial or test of one's faith.
 2. The temptation under consideration is a trial of one's faith (vs.3).
 - B. (vs.3-4) James shows us why we are to count it all joy when we face various trials.
 1. (vs.3) The trying of our faith produces "*patience*" [steadfastness, endurance].
 2. (vs.4) The end result will be a child of God who is complete in every way.
 - C. In order to count it all joy we must remember the end result of having our faith tested (1:12; Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 5:3-4).
 - D. This lesson taught by James was demonstrated by Christ (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9; 12:1-3).