

## James 5:19-20

### Introduction:

1. Subjects previously covered in our study of James include:
  - a. "facing temptations" (1:2-18)
  - b. "hearing and doing the Word" (1:19-27)
  - c. "respect of persons" (2:1-13)
  - d. "faith and works" (2:14-26)
  - e. "a warning for teachers" (3:1)
  - f. "use of the tongue" (3:2-12)
  - g. "true and false wisdom" (3:13-18)
  - h. "strife among Christians" (4:1-10)
  - i. "speaking evil of others" (4:11-12)
  - j. "self-sufficiency" (4:13-17)
  - k. "words of warning and reproof for the rich" (5:1-6)
  - l. "patience" (5:7-11)
  - m. "swearing" (5:12)
  - n. "calling upon God" (5:13-15)
  - o. "prayer" (5:16-18).
2. Another important subject is addressed in 5:19-20: "the salvation of erring brethren."
  - a. Christians receive forgiveness through confession and prayer (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9).
  - b. In the final verses of his letter James showed how faithful brethren are responsible for converting erring brethren.

### Discussion:

- I. A CHILD OF GOD CAN FALL
  - A. These verses are addressed to "brethren" ("if any of you").
  - B. It is possible for a brother to "err" [wander, go astray] from the truth.
    1. A child of God can err from the truth by believing or teaching false doctrine (2 Timothy 2:16-18).
    2. A child of God can also err from the truth through sinful living (James 3:14).
  - C. A child of God who errs from the truth:
    1. is a sinner
    2. needs to be converted
    3. is in danger of losing his soul (2 Peter 2:20-22).
  - D. The fact that a child of God can fall is also declared in Galatians 5:4.
- II. A FALLEN CHILD OF GOD CAN RETURN TO THE LORD
  - A. A fallen brother:
    1. can be converted from the error of his way
    2. can have his soul saved from death
    3. can have his sins forgiven.
  - B. However, as long as a child of God continues in his rebellious state he cannot receive forgiveness (Hebrews 6:4-6).
  - C. The good news is that a person can undergo a change of heart and have his relationship with the Lord restored (Luke 15:17-24).
- III. FAITHFUL BRETHREN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESTORING FALLEN BRETHREN
  - A. Faithful brethren are responsible for converting those who have erred from the truth, saving their souls from death, and hiding a multitude of sins (Galatians 6:1).
  - B. Some men who have restored fallen brethren include:
    1. Nathan (2 Samuel 12:1-13)
    2. Peter (Acts 8:12-24).