

MEN'S MINISTRY at ROME CHURCH

December 1, 2011

The Book of James

“Faith in Working Clothes”

Pastor's notes

Instead of my trying to encapsulate a few more ideas from James that have struck me, here's an opportunity for you to exercise your spiritual muscles. James is the Christian Worker's Manual for life. He gives some 80 admonitions to keep believers tracking with God's purposes. So here's my challenge to you: find and write down just 20 of these commands/principles. Pick the 10 that seem most relevant to your life situation. Next to those 10, jot down an idea that the Lord gives you as to how you will put it into practice. Then, GO FOR IT! Let God's Spirit fill and motivate you toward a faith that is alive, not dead. If this sounds like too much work... (?!?) well, then start with just ONE action item. You won't regret it. And, you'll avoid the consequence mentioned in 4:17. No, I'm not going to quote it for you; you'll have to look it up yourself. Put those working clothes on your faith!

Still Working at my faith,

Pastor Scott

No Men's Monday night fraternity until Jan. 2!

Come join us on Monday nights starting in January as we look into the practical use of the word in our family and marriages. If your family life is good, this will make it better. If your family life isn't so good, it's essential that you be here. Don't hold back, your family needs you to be as spiritually strong as possible. Come join us as we learn, help, and pray for one another.

December Men's breakfast:

Come join us on Saturday December 3 at 8:00am. Jerry Anderson will bring a short message. Come join the fun as we share a meal and look in to God's word.

Small Groups are happening:

Check out the several small groups that are going on. It's a great way to grow in the word and to meet new friends. Coming to church on Sunday morning is but the beginning of what you can do to grow in the Lord. Step out of your comfort zone, get more involved.

Newcomer's Class to begin Jan. 8th

There will be a sign-up sheet at the info booth for anyone interested in hearing more about Rome's doctrine and practices and what it means to be a member of RCBC. If you're not yet a member, please give prayerful thought to officially joining with the body at Rome.

"Practical Application of God's Word"

In studying the book of Hebrews and James we once again are confronted with the concept of faith. We have discussed it several times. Hebrews chapter 11 tells us of the faith of the patriarchs and others. Think of the faith Noah had to have to start his project called the Ark. In fact, he had to carry that level of faith for over a hundred years before the flood proved his faith to be right. Noah was moved by Godly fear. But he did get to live to see the flood. Most of the old men of faith died carrying their faith to the grave without seeing the promise it carried. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith we cannot please God...."for he who comes to God, must believe that he is". James 1:6 tells us that "we are to ask in faith without doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind". James 1:7 continues on by saying "For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord". Adam Clarke in his commentary says that "the man whose mind is divided, he is not properly persuaded either of his own wants or God's sufficiency. Such persons may pray, but having no faith, they can get no answer". It gets deeper in James 1:8 where it says "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways". Again Adam Clarke says here that "this is a man of two souls, one for earth and one for heaven". He will not give up earth, and he is loath to let heaven go. This was a usual term among the Jews. It expressed a man who attempted to worship God, and yet retained a love for the "creature". A man of this character is continually distracted: he will neither let earth nor heaven go, and yet he can have but one.... how about your faith? Do you have faith to believe that God is who he said he was? Do you still have one foot in the church and the other foot left outside to drag in the world? Do you even know what I'm talking about? Are sold out to God or do you just like the Sunday music? Spend some thought on these ideas this week. Share your thoughts with me. Send them to me. This topic on divided love is too big to let go in one ear and out the other. Rocky

What's in a concept?:

James 2:17, 2:20 tells us that faith without works is dead. In Chapter 2: 21,22 says that "was not Abraham our father justified by works, when offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?". The next verses in 23, 24, and 25 also show how Abraham and Rahab were justified by their works and not by faith only. When you read and study these verses, what do you get out of them? Verse 26 tells us that faith without works is dead. How about your works? Do you have faith in God? You say yes I do. OK, what are your works to show us that you have faith in God?

Pastors Bible Question: the set up... We are told that God

doesn't tempt us. What is the difference between God tempting us and trying us? I have read that there is no man that God doesn't try. He tries the rich to see if they will open their hands to the poor. He tries the poor to see if they will receive affliction and not murmur. What are your thoughts on this topic?

Pastors response:

There's a huge difference between tempting toward sin (a moral issue) and testing toward perseverance of faith (a character issue).

The source of temptation is from within our own sin-tainted souls (1:14). Since God is pure, he cannot be the source of sin, nor is he responsible for OUR response to the opportunity to sin (1:13). According to I Cor. 10:13, God is never the "front door" to sin. Instead, he provides the back door OUT of those sinful opportunities we find ourselves naturally drawn to. It takes supernatural power to resist so the opportunity to sin doesn't give birth to the sin itself (1:15).

The testing of our faith is clearly in mind in 1:2-12. Such tests of our character prove our resistance to false doctrine, worldly philosophies and values that entangle our souls into the "affairs" of this sensual, temporal world. When we avail ourselves of God's wisdom (1:5) and are not double-souled as Rocky pointed out earlier, we have the resources to pass the test. We take our "game to the next level"; we have exercised spiritual muscles and are strengthened for the next battle. That's the nature of the believer's life. So, (1) Expect the trials; (2) Meet them head-on in God's energy; (3) Choose God's values over your own, and you'll be a winner.

Take away truths:

- Faith without works is dead, 2:26
- And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, 3:6
- You ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts, 4:3
- Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you, 4:8

Sunday Quotes:

- And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace, 3:18
- Good works come after salvation, 2:14-26

**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
James 4:7**