



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Bring Back the Erring One

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The Epistle of James' (AD 45-50) likely author was James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, a humble man, the leader of the Jerusalem church and the leader of the Council of Jerusalem. While James is addressing the twelve tribes that had scattered to all parts of the world and attempts to be encouraging to the believing Jews who were struggling with trials and tribulations, he confronts the issue of the testing and fruit of a faithful Christian's walk and the wise Godly righteous reactions of him when grounded in total faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will battle the enemies of the world, their flesh and Satan (3:15). Wisdom's foundation is either from man or from God and people will need to make a choice. James challenges the believers to be patient "for the coming of the Lord is near." and a solution for the suffering in the mean time. James brings his epistle to a close in the last two verses regarding a living and dead faith.

"My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:19-20 NASB)

A warning. James is addressing his brethren in the faith with a directive that if a professing believer strays from the truth, his fellow believers are directed to pursue the wanderer and turn him back to the truth.

It's very easy to get focused on our own issues, troubles and trial that we become distracted and forget the needs of the lost and of those believers that have strayed or wandered from the faith. Believers are directed to attempt to bring those lost and wandering to or back to the Lord. Believers are to seek out those that stray and restore the believers with love and gentleness (Gal 6:1).

Saving from Death. James also is addressing the lost, those with a dead faith, ones not grounded in the saving grace of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:8-9).

Understanding that the believer's life in this world is very short, like a vapor (4:14) and with the expected return of the Lord, those with a living faith should be on a daily pursuit of the lost and wandering brethren to win them to Christ.

Warren Wiersbe summarizes the points made in the Epistle of James by urging each Christian to ask him- or herself a series of probing questions:

1. Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation or resist it from the start?
3. Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I able to control my tongue?
6. Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?
7. Am I a friend of God or a friend of the world?
8. Do I make plans without considering the will of God?
9. Am I selfish when it comes to money? Am I unfaithful in the paying of my bills?
10. Do I naturally depend on prayer when I find myself in some kind of trouble?
11. Am I the kind of person others seek for prayer support?
12. What is my attitude toward the wandering brother? Do I criticize and gossip, or do I seek to restore him in love?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44