

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**BUT BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY,**

**DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES.**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **JAMES 1:18-22**

**James 1:22, But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the February 20, 2022 Evening Message for the Background.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. The **Epistle of James** is very practical in that it deals with the full range of ethical matters concerning Christian faith.
- b. James emphasizes his major theme, of faith, that is seen throughout this epistle.
- c. The emphasis in **James** is works which are produced by saving-faith.
- d. In the first three chapters he verifies genuine faith.
- e. He gives us some ways that God will actually test our faith. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10, And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8: For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**
  1. God tests our faith by trials that are very much a part of our lives.
  2. James tells us in **James 1:5-8, If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6: But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7: For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8: A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**
  3. God emphatically tells us He does not test us with evil. **James 1:13, Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:**
- f. When we study this great book we must keep in mind, to whom it is addressed; however, it has tremendous applications for the Church. **James 1:1, James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.**
- g. We will look at some of those applications today as we study the Word of God and as we enrich ourselves from this great book.

## 3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth.**
  1. **James 1:18, Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**
  2. Very early in this verse, James emphasizes the new birth; the fact that we must be born again. We are indeed saved by faith and James makes this very clear.

3. There is no such thing as anyone being predestined to be saved or predestined to be lost. **Romans 8:29**, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
4. The aforementioned verse highlights the two wills that will come together at salvation.
5. God's will that He laid down is the plan of salvation for all.
6. He told us that whosoever will, may come and take of the water of life freely. This is clearly an expression of man's will yielded to God. **Revelation 22:17** makes it plain, *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*
7. **1 Peter 1:23**, *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*
8. At the same time, we must realize God has given man a free will; a choice to believe the record that God hath given of His Son or to reject the record. **1 John 5:11-12**, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*
9. When the heart is right the Holy Spirit will be there to draw the unbeliever to the side of the Living Saviour. **John 16:8**, *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: John 6:44, No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
10. In order for one to be saved one must first realize his lost condition. **Psalms 51:5**, *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
11. In sharing the plan of salvation, if we cannot get a person lost then we will never get them to accept God's plan of salvation. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
12. We need to know what sin is, we need to know that it is by nature we are the children of wrath. **Ephesians 2:3**, *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*
13. **No works, in any way, shape or form will ever pull us out of that sinful state or lost condition; God has to give us a brand-new nature to deal with sinful mankind.**
14. The Bible says in **2 Peter 1:4**, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

**b. Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.**

1. **James 1:19**, *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*
2. Since the Bible tells us that faith cometh by hearing in **Romans 10:17**, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* James emphasizes this in the aforementioned verse.
3. In order to be slow to speak, slow to wrath and swift to hear, *we must truly be saved and born again and walking in the Spirit so as not to fulfil the lust of the flesh.* **Proverbs 21:23**, *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*
4. **Hebrews 4:12** tells us, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
5. Also, the Bible tells us in **1 Corinthians 2:14**, *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*
6. When we are saved and born again, we are redeemed and given the Holy Spirit that is designed to guide us into all truth. **John 16:13**, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*
7. Unless we are saturating our minds with the Preserved Word of God on a daily basis, we will never be able to walk in the Spirit. **Galatians 5:16**, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
8. Most Christians find themselves jumping in the flesh and living in the flesh most of the time. **Romans 6:13**, *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but*

yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. **Romans 6:16**, Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

9. Instead of walking in the Spirit, we walk in the flesh because we are not students of the Word of God; our minds are not saturated with the Scriptures. **Psalm 119:105**, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. **Romans 12:2**, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **Psalms 1:1-3**, Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. **2: But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3: And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**
10. Many times, we blow our Christian testimony which is what we should be very careful not to do. On many occasions a testimony that has taken years to build can be blown in just a few moments.

**c. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.**

1. **James 1:20**, For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
2. In the flesh we can never please God. **Romans 8:8**, So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
3. We know it is not about how religious we think we are or how we try to carry ourselves or talk about our spirituality.
4. What James is emphasizing here is; **faith without works is dead.**
5. He is saying that a true Christian will bring forth not only good works but also a clear, balanced disposition at all times displaying the fact that we have been with Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, Rejoice evermore. **17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Proverbs 3:5-6**, Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**
6. In order to have righteousness we must know Jesus as personal Saviour. **Romans 3:22**, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
7. The ways of man will not please God. **Proverbs 14:12**, There is away which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
8. My friend, have you been angry lately? Do you hold bitterness and resentment in your heart? We must remember that these are works of the flesh. **Ephesians 4:26-27**, Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: **27: Neither give place to the devil.** Always remember there are three forms of anger; **rage, resentment and righteous indignation.** The latter is what our Saviour indicates to be angry and sin not. It is something that we can do something about.
9. The Bible says in **Romans 12:19**, Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
10. We must be careful to guard our testimony.
11. We are not to let anyone see us sweat since we know the Living Saviour who is sitting at the right hand of the Father.
12. The Bible clearly tells us in **Romans 12:2**, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
13. The next verse in James indicates exactly where we need to be.

**d. Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

1. **James 1:21**, Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
2. What we are talking about here is the works of the flesh. Only the Word of God is able to look deep within our heart and discern the intent of our thoughts. **Hebrews 4:12**, For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twodged sword, piercing even to the dividing

asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

3. The only way we can get rid of the works of the flesh is by growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 3:18, But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**
4. **The Word of God is able to save our souls and clean up our bad habits in this life. John 15:3, Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Psalms 119:9-11, Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10: With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11: Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**
5. Many times, people say the **Book of James** is all about works.
6. If you examine the Scriptures under the microscope, you will conclude that the **Book of James** is all about faith.
7. **We can never maintain good works until we have been saved and born again and know Christ as Saviour.**
8. In this verse, James speaks about salvation; the Word of God which is able to save our soul.
9. The soul is what gets saved; after the soul is saved we should feed the new nature with the Word of God and then we are able to grow in grace and **conquer the works of the flesh. 1 Corinthians 9:27, But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**
10. The works of the flesh are detailed for us in **Galatians 5:19-21, Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20: Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21: Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**
11. Receiving with meekness the engrafted Word of God allows us to overcome the works of the flesh. **John 15:3, Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

**e. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

1. **James 1:22, But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**
2. The Bible tells us right off that we are deceiving ourselves if we are not doers of the Word.
3. Of course, it brings clearly into focus a situation that is debated among not only Bible scholars but those who are unbelievers and those who are shallow in the Word. **1 Corinthians 3:2, I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.**
4. I stick with the Authorized King James 1611 Bible which is God's Preserved Word for the English-speaking people.
5. We are not to be deceived by having commentaries that are developed by men and think it is the Word of God.
6. Ask you to do the research. If you do even just a little investigating, you will see where these translations are coming from and why there is such a tremendous explosion of these versions; you will be convinced like I am.
7. I have not always been an Authorized King James 1611 man, but having looked at all the details, the background, and the facts of this version, I must conclude it is in fact the Preserved Word of God.
8. James tells us to be doers of the Word. In order to carry out the spirit of this command we must search diligently to find out what the true Word of God is and embrace it. **Acts 17:10-11, And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11: These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**
9. **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** lends some light, **Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.**
10. The world today is not reading the Bible, they are reading us; the true believer.
11. Most of the time this is expressed in our strong faith for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



**Acts 21:13** Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

12. There is a little saying which rings so true:

"The Gospel is written a chapter a day  
by deeds you do and by words you say.  
Men read what you say whether faithless or true.  
Say what is the Gospel according to you."
13. **We must be very careful as Christians about our words, deeds and actions. Ephesians 4:29, Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30: And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**
14. We must be careful about what we say and how we say it.
15. **John 7:17** indicates, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
16. Also in **Psalm 34:8**, *O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*
17. And **John 3:36**, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
18. The message that Jesus Christ is giving us is repent, come unto me and believe. Repentance applies both to the believer and the unbeliever. It simply means to change one's mind or direction.
19. When we have the Gospel message that is recorded **Matthew 11:28**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* And **Mark 1:15**, *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.* The Word of God demands our belief.
20. The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)* and **Psalm 95:7-8**, *For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, 8: Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*
21. I hear often, people establish the fact that they are Christians. You should not have to tell anyone you are a believer or that you have been with Jesus, it should be manifested in our very countenance and our outlook on life. **Acts 4:13**, *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*
22. There is a poem where the author is unknown that says

"It is easier to preach than to practice.  
It is easier to say than to do.  
Most sermons are heard by the many,  
but are taken to heart by few."
23. **We must not deceive ourselves; we have to be doers of the Word.**
24. Self-deception is a terrible thing; once we learn how to lie to ourselves, we have real problems.
25. **1 John 1:8** tells us, *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
26. We have to realize we are sinners by nature and salvation of the soul does not cause the flesh to be perfect.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, none of this is possible until you know that Christ is the living Saviour sitting at the right hand of the Father.
- b. Have you accepted Him as personal Saviour? If you have, it is time to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus.
- c. If you have not accepted Him as Saviour you need to come and ask Him for salvation and rest for your soul. **Jeremiah 6:16**, *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

- d. **Romans 3:23**, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- e. **Romans 3:10**, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- f. **Romans 10:9-10**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10:** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- g. Jesus says in **Matthew 11:28-29**, Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29:** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- h. Rest for the soul is what we need.
- i. Please stand.

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