GREAT OAKS

Breakfast & **BIBLE CLASS** (with 500 of your favorite people) September 10th Breakfast at 8am Bible class starts at 9am

Christian Faith, Status, and Partiality

\succ Our passage for this morning: James 2:1-13

THE LETTER OF

JAMES

2013 267

^aJames, a servant¹ of God and ^b of the Lord Jesus Christ, Greeting To ° the twelve tribes in ° the Dispersion:

²⁴Count it all joy, my brothers,² when you meet trials ⁶ of various kinds, ³ for you know bat the testing of more find the set of the s that "the testing of your faith" produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its full *If any of you lacks wisdom, *let him ask God, 'who gives generously to all without effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But ^mlet him ask God, who gives generously to an winder the solution of the solution Testing of Your Faith one who doubts is like °a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that

must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸⁹he is a doublehation, 1º and 'the rich in his humiliation, because up rises with its scorching heat and all the rich man fade

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James 1:27

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*All verses from 1995 New American Standard

The <u>Temptation</u> to Partiality – v. 1-4

¹ My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* <u>personal favoritism</u>.

Partiality – (prosopoleipsia) the fault of one who has respect to the outward circumstances of men and not to their intrinsic merits, and so prefers, as the more worthy, one who is rich, high-born, or powerful, to another who is destitute of such gifts.

The <u>Temptation</u> to Partiality – v. 1-4

Sadly, people often give greater honor to those who have status.

² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,

- ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"
- ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

- ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"
- ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?



¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Partiality is Unlike <u>God</u> – v. 5-7



⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

<u>Acts 10:34-35</u>

- ³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said:
- "I most certainly
- understand *now* that God is not one to show <u>partiality</u>,
- ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

Colossians 3:25

²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without <u>partiality</u>.

James 2:5-7

⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

James 2:5-7

- ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?
- ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

Partiality is Unlike <u>God</u> – v. 5-7

God's heart has always had a special place for the poor.

Partiality is Against God's Law – v. 8-13

James 2:8-11

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well.

James 2:8-11

- ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as transgressors.
- ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

James 2:8-11

¹¹ For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

John 19:11

¹¹ Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has <u>the greater sin</u>."

Matthew 23:23

²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

Partiality is Against God's Law – v. 8-13

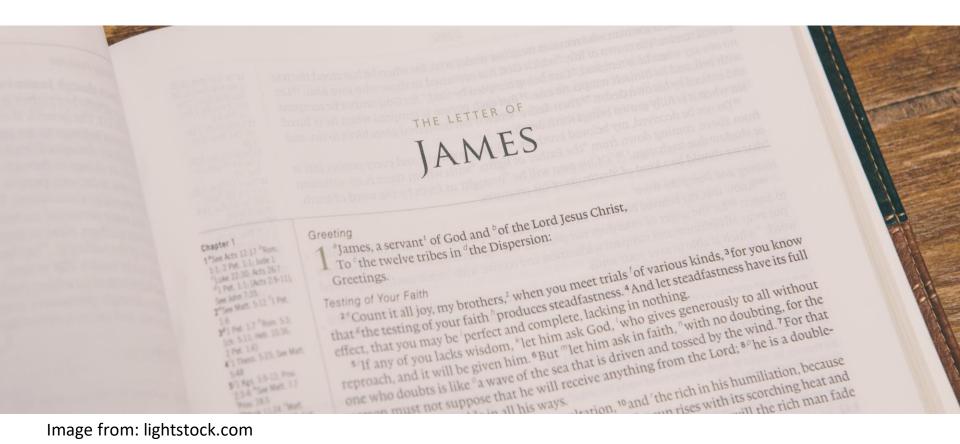
Though some sins are "greater," any sin makes us guilty before God.

¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty.

¹³ For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. Partiality is Against God's Law – v. 8-13

One definition of mercy: <u>kindness</u> expressed towards someone in <u>need</u>.

¹ My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. -James 2:1



We will interact with many different <u>types</u> of <u>people</u>. Let's treat them so that people see <u>Jesus</u> in <u>us</u>...

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear	Hear about Christ (Rom. 10:17)
Believe	Believe in Christ (John 8:24)
Repent	Commit to Live for Christ (Acts 3:19)
Confess	Confess Faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10)
Be Baptized	Baptism into Christ (Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3-4)

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and <u>pray for one another</u> so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.