

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 4:7-12

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Things That Christians Do”
The eight birthmarks of the believer

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22
But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text vv. 7-12

Text Summation

The ways of God are nothing like the ways of man. His doings are altogether different from our way of doing. If I were God I would like to stick my face through the sky above and yell “Booo!” so everyone would know I’m here. Or maybe I would send lightening across the heavens and cause everybody to fall to their knees in fear because I’m God! - But no, God has allowed us to be able to see and to hear of His existence through the plan for Humankind.

So that if God exists, then evidence would also exist that proves of His existence! That we should be able to stop and think with our brains and look with our reason and logic and see that in fact, the evidence of both visible and invisible truth testifies beyond doubt that God is Real!

Psalm 19:1-3

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Agnosticism

Romans 1:20-22

From since the creation of the world God has been revealing His invisible attributes to all of His creation, attributes which are clearly seen by all, and being understood by all the things that He has created, even the fact of His eternal power and Godhead, so that creation, especially mankind are without excuse, ²¹ because, although mankind knew of God’s existence, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful to Him as God, but became futile, void and empty in their thinking and in their thoughts, so that their unreasonable hearts were darkened. ²² Because they rejected Him, they naturally Professed themselves to be wise, but in reality they became fools,

Atheism

Psalm 14:1a

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

The truth of God's word is sure

2 Peter 1:19a

for we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place..."

It will be performed in the earth

Isaiah 55:10-11

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

If God is True, and If His Word is True,
then those who claim to know Him Should live in this Truth

And we, as His disciples, have come to His truth

John 17:15-18

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Paul's Prayer for the Believers

1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV

We thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but as it actually is, **the word of God, which is at work within you who believe.**

...and so we are growing and doing

James 4:7-12

Therefore **submit** to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ **Lament** and **mourn** and **weep!** Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ **Humble** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up ¹¹ **Do not speak evil** of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

“Things That Christians Do”

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

Verses 7-10 deal with our relationship toward God

there are '6', vertical characteristics of the Christian

Verses 11-13 deal with our relationship toward one another

there are '2', horizontal characteristics of the Christian

The 8 birthmarks of the believer

“Things That Christians Do”

1.) The Christian and his Relationship Toward God vv. 7-10

Therefore **submit** to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ **Lament** and **mourn** and **weep!** Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ **Humble** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up

1a.) Birthmark #1 - Christians **Submit** to God's Desires

Therefore **submit** to God

*

submit grk 5293 hupotasso (hoop-ot-as'-so);

A military term to be under the command of the one who is to give an account in the end.

How do we Apply “**Submission**” in Our Lives?

I.) Knowing that God is Sovereign in the Affairs of Men

Ephesians 1:11 ESV

It is He who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Romans 11:36

For **of** Him and **through** Him and **to** Him are all things, to whom be THE glory forever.

He Alone is The Sovereign God of All
... so we are wise to submit to Him!

Applying "Submission"

II.) Knowing that God has appointed Human Authorities

Romans 13:1,7

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

...⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be **submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

He Alone is The Sovereign God of All
... so we are wise to submit to Him

Ephesians 5:21-22

submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, ((**as to the Lord.**))

Applying "Submission"

in marriage, business, government, & morality

III.) Knowing what God's Word Says and Then Doing it

James 1:25

But **he who looks** into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

He who looks...
((to bow down to))

the picture James is painting shows an open Bible and the Christian bowing down toward it seeking to do God's will

The Christian and his Relationship Toward God

1b.) Birthmark #2 - Christians **Resist** The Attacks of Satan

Resist the devil and he will flee from you

1 Peter 5:8-9a

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in **the** faith,

How Do We Resist the Devil?

I.) By Standing Hard Against Satan by using the Word

* **Resist** grk 436 anthistemi (anth-is'-tay-mee);
to stand hard against, to oppose with knowledge and purpose

Romans 6:13-14

And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴
For sin shall not have dominion over you,

Ephesians 6:16-17

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The Word of God Has Supernatural Power Against the Devil
not a crucifix, not a robe, not incense, nor holy water

“Things That Christians Do”

1c.) #3 - **Seeking** God Above All Other Things

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

* **Draw** grk 1448 eggizo (eng-id'-zo);
to make nearby approaching, to move towards

What's Implied is:

The O.T. Priest who entered into The Holy of Holies once a year

Ephesians 2:13

But now **in** Christ Jesus you who once **were far off**
have been brought **near** by the blood of Christ.

We Are to Be the Ones Drawing Near to Him Now

and Fellowship, Bible study & Prayer is the Medium

I.) Seeking Him in Our Worship

John 4:23-24

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Drawing Near to God through Worship

II.) Seeking Him in Our Ministry

Ephesians 2:10

For we have been created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**,
which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

"good works" (agathos (ag-ath-os') (ergon (er'-gon);

grk meaning: benevolent - virtuous - God-like efforts

((Which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them))

Custom Tailored to & For You

Drawing Near to God through Ministry

III.) Seeking Him for Our Future

One of Man's Greatest Desires is to Know the Future
Needing a Sense of Control

Psalm 23:3a

He restores (ongoing) my soul;
he leads (ongoing) me in the paths of righteousness

Drawing Near to God through Hope

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.

1d.) #4 - Leaving the Old World Behind Us

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts,
you **double-minded**.

To Have Divided Interest / to be Two-Souled
Two or Twin - Souled

The Hands in Action

* **Cleanse** the public, outer conduct of our actions

The Heart in Motive

* **purify** the private, inner motive of our hearts

“Things That Christians Do”

1e.) #5 - Having an Accurate Estimation of Themselves

A Sickness over Sin

Lament and **mourn** and **weep!** Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy
to gloom.

A More Pronounced Awareness of their Sinfulness

The Closer I Draw - the Greater the light - the More I see Myself in Darkness

1 Timothy 1:15-16

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom **I am chief**.¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

* **Chief** grk 4413 protos (pro'-tos);
the foremost. The best of. The leader of...

Lament / Mourn / Weep

Illustrated by a Parable

Luke 18:10-14

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹³ "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴ "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Psalm 34:18

The LORD is **near** to those who have a **broken heart**,
and **saves** such as have a **contrite spirit**.

The Example of Mary

Luke 7:47

"Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

“Things That Christians Do”

1f.) #6 - **Determined** to Live in the Presence of God

Humble yourselves (in the sight of the Lord,) - NOT MEN !
and He will lift you up

* **Humble** grk 5011 tapeinos (tap-i-nos');
a true depression and humiliation that comes from being in the presence of one who is great; placing yourself at the end of the line

Whosoever **Asserts** Himself - The Lord will Promote

Matthew 18:4

"Therefore whoever **humbles** himself as this little child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 23:12

"And whoever exalts himself will be **humbled**,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

1 Peter 5:6

Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time,

“Things That Christians Do”

2.) The Christian and his Relationship to Others vv. 11-12

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

2a.) #7 - Christians **Exercise** Grace Toward Others

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

“Speaks evil of **the law** and judges the law.”

The Perfect Law of ‘**Liberty**’

James 1:25

But he who looks into **the perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

“The Law” is The Law of Liberty = Christian Love

James 2:12

So speak and so do as those who will be judged by **the law of liberty**.

The Mosaic Law?

James 2:8

If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;

Speaking Evil or the Judging of Another is to place yourself as Judge

James 4:6

Therefore He says: "God resists the **proud**,
(Those Who Set Themselves Above the Others)
but He gives grace to the **humble**."

The Fact is:

Christians are to be known for their Love, for one another
not the "condemning" or "despising" of another

"Things That Christians Do"

2b.) #8 - Christians **Yield** to the Rule of God

There is one Lawgiver,
who is able to **save** and to **destroy**.
Who are you to judge another?

A Proud, Self-righteous, Arrogant Person Aligns Themselves Against God

The Self-Appointed Sin Sniffers and Fault Finders of any Church

Why Would a Christian Judge Another?

1. Because they've become **bitter** toward another
2. Because they've become **jealous** of another
3. Because they've become **proud**
4. Because they see themselves **better** than others

We're to be United in the Faith

Ephesians 4:13-15

till we all come to **the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ--

Keeping at It

Ephesians 4:1-3

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

On Doctrine - there's no compromise
but on differences of methods or techniques and tradition
"Blessed are the Flexible - for they shall not be broken"

Who are you to judge another?

Some of You Have Judged Others All Your Life..... now you have no friends
Some of You Have Judged a Relative In Your Life.....and it's rotting your life
Some of You Have Judged Jesus All Your Life..... and you're alone