

A Study In James

- ⇒ written by James, brother of Jesus
- ⇒ Writing to Christian Jews scattered throughout the Roman Empire
- ⇒ Stresses practical Christian living - living out what you say you believe
- ⇒ Also rebuffing a perversion of the doctrine of justification by faith alone
- ⇒ The majority of his audience was probably poor and oppressed
- ⇒ They were spiritually immature based upon the subjects James wrote to them about
- ⇒ The theme of James can be stated as "a belief that behaves"

Lesson I - Purpose of Testing (James 1:2-12)

I. Develops Perseverance in the Believer (v.2)

- A. One must look upward, not outward in trials
- B. One must trust God's sovereignty in the midst of trials
- C. God gives wisdom and all good things to the one who believes
- D. Romans 5:3-5, I Peter 1:6-7, Matthew 5:10-12

> Key word: Joy - why?

> Do we really suffer? What are some of our trials?

- E. Matthew 10:16-23 - Jesus foretells of suffering for believers

II. Develops Maturity in the Believer (v.3)

- A. The standard is perfection (Matthew 5:48)
- B. The more you persevere, the more spiritually mature you become (gain wisdom)
- C. Paul strives for it (Phillippians 3:12)
- D. Three states of perfection: positional (received at salvation), relative (spiritual maturity - gained through experience), ultimate (coming at the resurrection of the dead (Phillippians 3:20-21)) - leads to III

III. Develops Hope in the Believer (v.12)

- A. Hope of what?

> II Timothy 4:8, Revelation 22:12

> Rewards/eternity with Christ

- B. All of our trials and persevering will one day be worth it all