

Faith That  
**WORKS!**

THE EPISTLE OF

# JAMES



THROUGH THE BIBLE



NOT THIS  
JAMES

# THE BOOK OF JAMES: FAST FACTS

Mark 10:35: **“James and John, the sons of Zebedee...”**

Mark 3:17: **“James the son of Zebedee and John... to whom [Jesus] gave the name ‘Sons of Thunder’...”**

Acts 12:1-2: **“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand... [and] killed James the brother of John with the sword.”**

BUT THIS  
JAMES



Galatians 1:19: **“James, the Lord’s brother.”**

“James the Just” | “James the Righteous”

# ***JAMES - THE “HALF” BROTHER OF JESUS***

**Matthew 13:55: “Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers JAMES, Joses, Simon, and Judas?”**

**Jude 1:1: “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, AND BROTHER brother of JAMES...”**

# *DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE ‘BROTHERS’ OF JESUS*

- \* The **HIERONYMIAN VIEW**—That Jesus’ “**brothers**” were actually His “**cousins**,” the sons of Alphaeus and Mary the SISTER of Jesus’ mother.
- \* The **EPIPHANIAN VIEW**—That Jesus’ “**brothers**” were Joseph’s from a **PREVIOUS MARRIAGE**... (thus making them His “*step brothers*”).
- \* The **HELVIDIAN VIEW**—That Jesus’ “**brothers**” were ACTUALLY His brothers and sisters... the SAME MOTHER with a DIFFERENT FATHER [GOD was Jesus’ Father, not Joseph].



# ***JESUS' BROTHERS DID NOT INITIALLY BELIEVE IN HIM***

**John 7:5 says: “...even His brothers did not believe in Him.”**

**Mark 3:21: “[they said] ‘He is out of His mind.’”**

## **BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED!**

# *JAMES ENCOUNTERS THE RESURRECTED JESUS*

1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:3-7: **“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and... He was buried, and... rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, AND... He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once...”**

**“After that He was seen by James...”**

*“This [Personal appearance is likely] the CAUSE [of James’] conversion. When [James] did follow Jesus, he followed with great devotion...” (David Guzik)*

# THE LETTER OF JAMES

James 1:1: **“James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...”**

*(Not “His brother,” or “Personal Relative”)*

**BONDSEERVANT = Gr. ‘doulos’**

*“A [doulos]... lived completely for his master. He had no rights of ownership, could not hold title to anything, everything he had belonged to his master... bereft of ambitions in a personal way, they lived solely to serve the Lord and... please Him.”* **(Chuck Smith)**

*“Jesus was more than James’ brother; more importantly, Jesus was his Lord.”* **(David Guzik)**

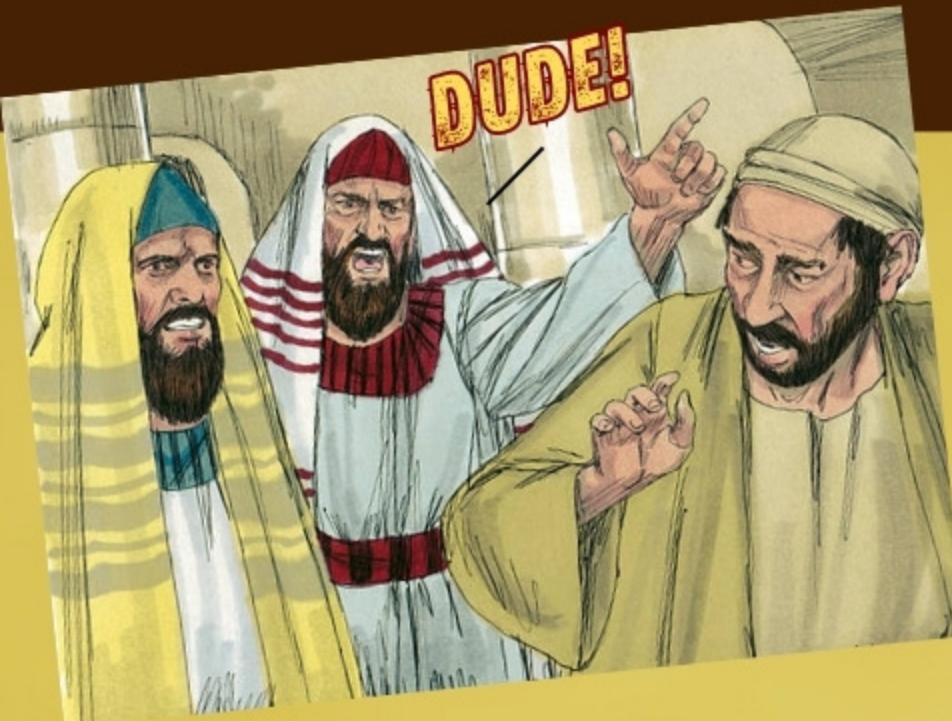
# *JAMES: A LEADER IN THE EARLY CHURCH*

Acts 12:17: “**Go, tell these things to James...**”

Galatians 1:18-19: “**...after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter... But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.**”

*“James... was the first... to be elected to the episcopal throne of the Jerusalem church.” – “Peter and James and John, after the [Lord’s] ascension... did not contend for glory, [they] made James the Just bishop of Jerusalem.” (Eusebius)*

## *A MAJOR DISPUTE IN THE EARLY CHURCH:*



Acts 11:2-3: **“When Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying, “You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!”**

Acts 15:1: **“Certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”**

Acts 15:2: **“[they] had no small dissension and dispute...”**  
Acts 15:7: **“there [was] much dispute...”**

**"IT SEEMED GOOD TO THE  
HOLY SPIRIT AND TO US"**

## **THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL:**



**THIS WAS  
JAMES!**

**Acts 15:13-22: "Men and brethren... I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood." – "[this thing] pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church..."**

# JAMES: A LEADER IN THE EARLY CHURCH



“[Early church history]... says James was such a man of prayer that his knees had large and thick calluses, making them look like the knees of a camel. It also [records] that James was martyred in Jerusalem by being pushed from a high point of the temple. [But] the fall did not kill him, and on the ground he was beaten to death, even as he prayed for his attackers.”

**(David Guzik | EnduringWord.com)**

“James the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ”

**Josephus | ‘Antiquities of the Jews’ [62 AD]**

# **DATING THE BOOK OF JAMES**

James 1:1: “**James, a bondservant of God and... the Lord Jesus Christ, TO... the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad...**”

Jms. 2:2: “**If there should come into your assembly, a man with gold rings...**”

**“ASSEMBLY”** = ‘synagogue’ = Jewish term  
**“TWELVE TRIBES”** = No relevance to Gentile readers

**JAMES SEEKS TO BE WRITING TO  
AN EXCLUSIVELY JEWISH AUDIENCE**

APPX.  
50 A.D.

## DATING THE BOOK OF JAMES

*“Such a significant event as the Jerusalem Council [would have] warranted comment from James... But James makes no mention [it, nor] of the Gentile Christians at all...”* (**Chuck Swindoll**)

*“Most scholars believe the Book of James was written before the Jerusalem Council... [in] a very early period [of Christianity] before the church was distinct from Judaism. The council met in 49 A.D., meaning James likely wrote his letter between 45-48 A.D.”*

*“All evidence shows that this [Book] belongs to a primitive stage in the history of the Christian Church... it is **the earliest of the New Testament Writings.**”* (**Dr. Graham Scroggie**)

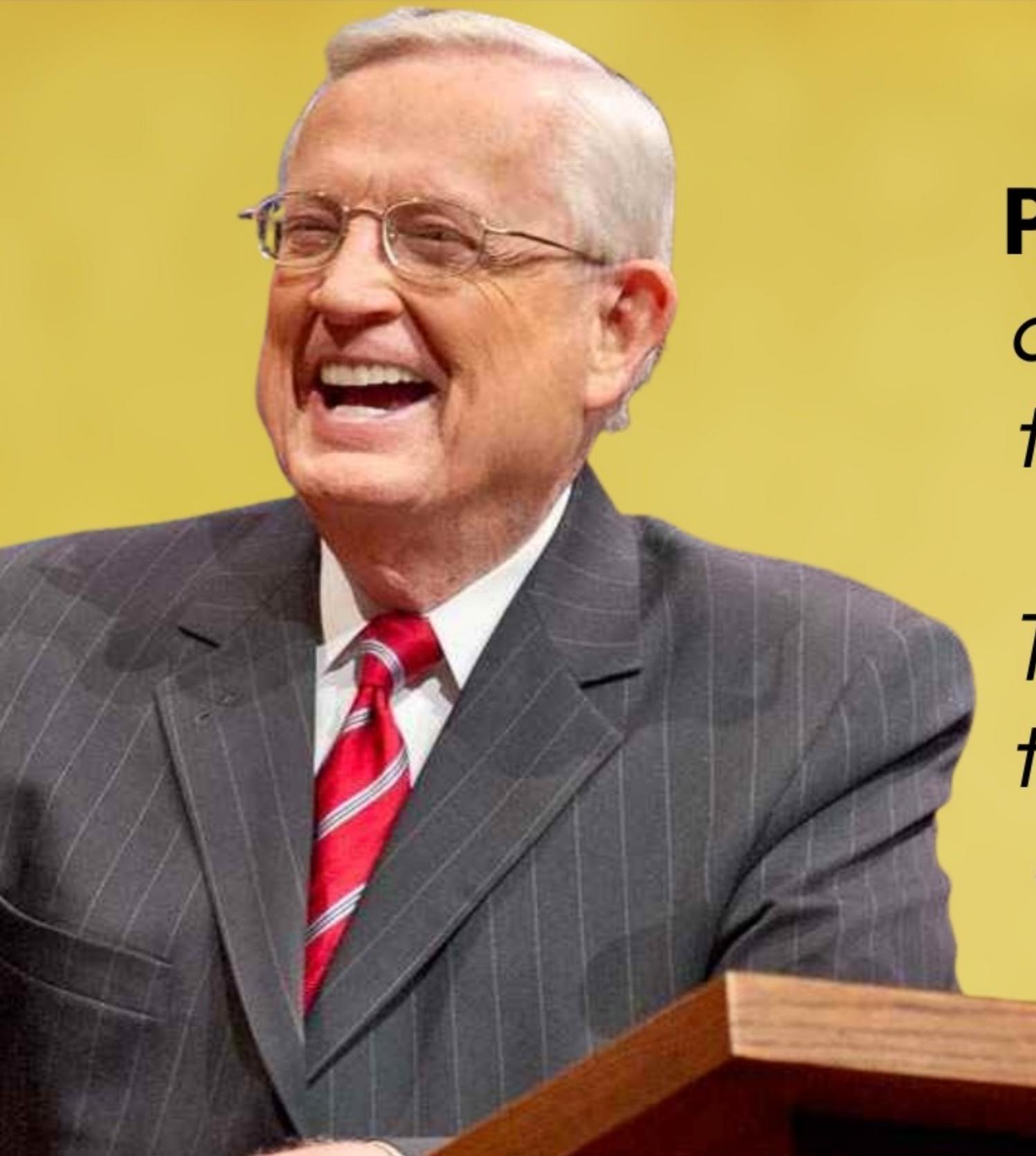
# **THE BOOK OF JAMES**

**An INCREDIBLY PRACTICAL BOOK**  
**An INCREDIBLY DENSE BOOK**

**Covering Topics like:** *persevering in trials, not showing partiality, prayer, how to control our tongue, pride, humility, spiritual adultery, heavenly vs demonic wisdom, true religion, meeting physical needs...*

**James emphasizes DUTY over DOCTRINE**  
**In 108 verses, 54 CLEAR COMMANDS are given**

# THE BOOK OF JAMES



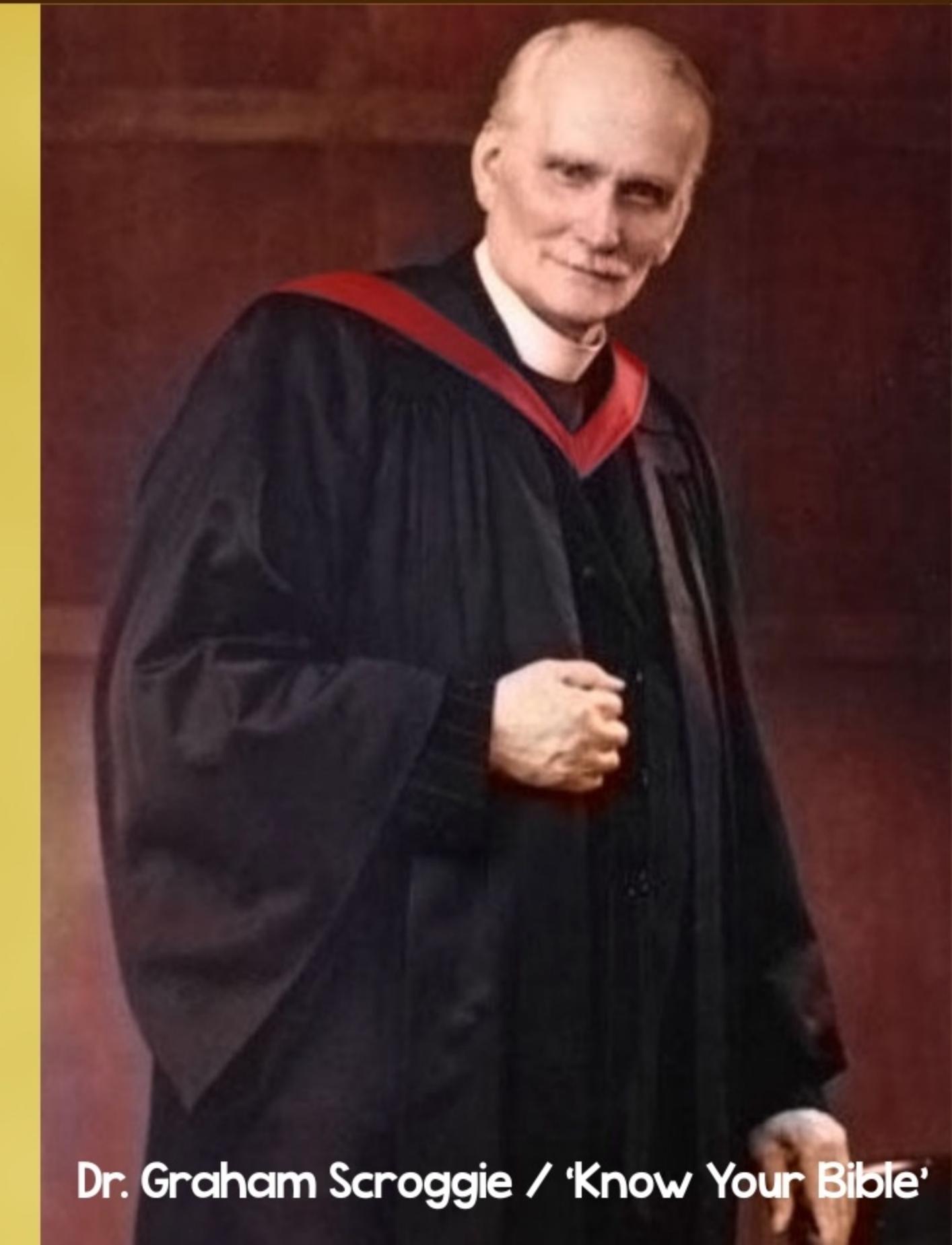
*“The book of James is a bit like **the Proverbs [of the] New Testament**. Its consistent focus on practical action in the life of [the believer] is reminiscent of the Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament, encouraging God’s people to ACT like God’s people... In the mind of this early church leader, Christians evidence their faith by walking in certain ways and not others.”*

# A MORAL HARANGUE!

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

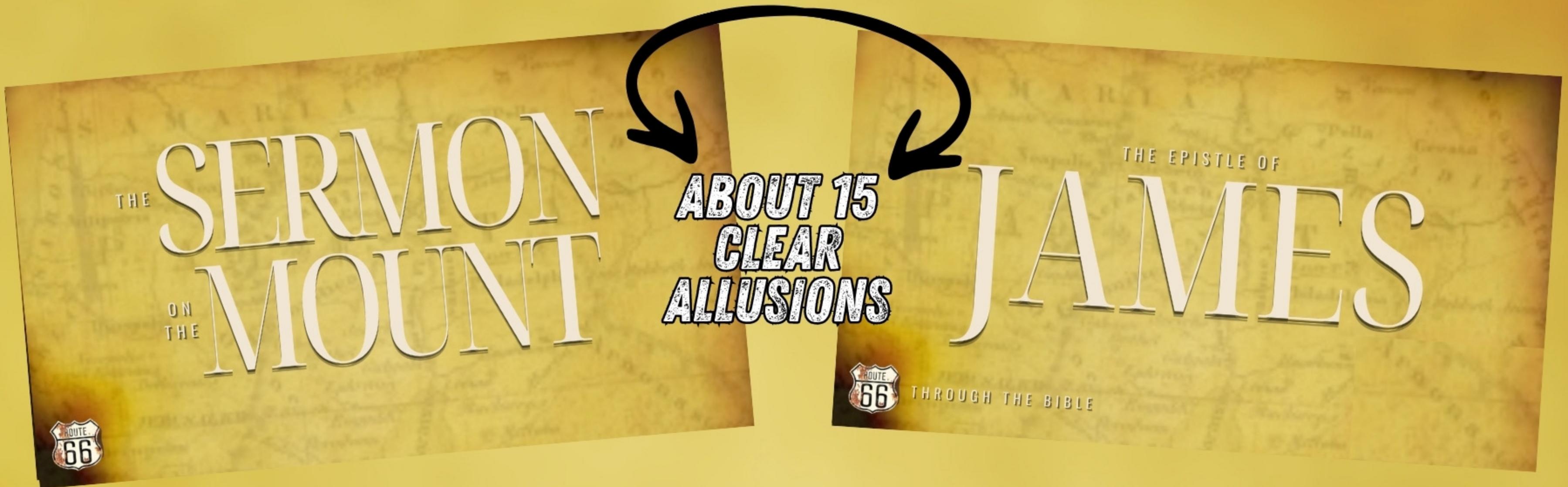
*"The author wrote to rebuke the shameful neglect of certain Christian duties. Rather than speculating on religious theories, James directs his readers toward godly living. [This] book... speaks, especially, to those who are inclined to talk their way to heaven, instead of walk their way there..."*

*"In its rugged abruptness, the pregnant brevity of its phrases, the austerity of its demand upon the reader... the Epistle of James stands alone among... New Testament [writings]. It is less a letter than a moral harangue, stamped with the lofty personality of the writer, and a-fire with his burning sincerity."*



Dr. Graham Scroggie / 'Know Your Bible'

*“more of the teaching of our Lord [Jesus] is contained in James than all the other New Testament Epistles combined.”*



*“These allusions indicate a close relationship between James & Jesus, giving evidence of the strong influence of the Lord in the author’s life.”*  
*“[This is] A man who knew the teaching of Jesus and took it seriously.”*

# A MORAL HARANGUE!

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

*"The author wrote to rebuke the shameful neglect of certain Christian duties. Rather than spending time on religious theories, James focuses toward godly living. [The]*

*especially*

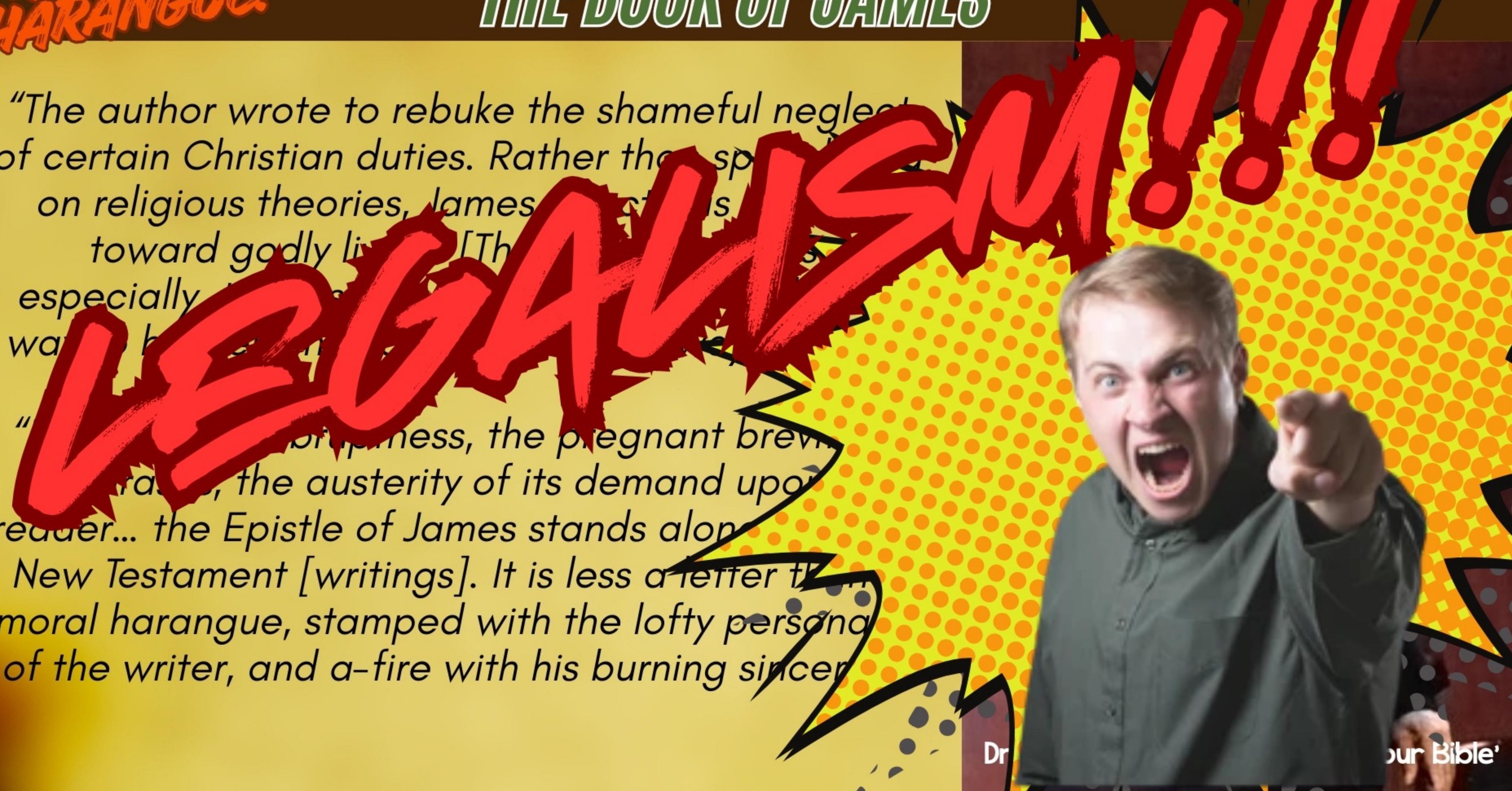
*warns his*

*"...the sharpness, the pregnant brevity, the austerity of its demand upon the reader... the Epistle of James stands alone in the New Testament [writings]. It is less a letter than a moral harangue, stamped with the lofty personal stamp of the writer, and a-fire with his burning sincerity."*

*Dr*

*Dr*

*our Bible'*



# **THIS ISN'T LEGALISM!**

Gen. 2:16-17: **“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...”**



**THIS IS PROTECTION | WISDOM | HOLINESS**

**The Bible Doesn't Just Tell Us What to BELIEVE  
It Also Tells Us How to LIVE**

**ORTHO-DOXY = BELIEF / DOCTRINE**

**ORTHO-PRAXY = PRACTICE / LIVING**

# THIS ISN'T LEGALISM!



*"For James, faith was no abstract proposition... [it] had effects in the real world. [James offers] numerous practical examples to illustrate his point. If those who call themselves God's people truly belong to Him, their lives will produce fruit. In language [that is] similar to [the] Sermon on the Mount, James rails against the hypocritical believer who says one thing but does another. **A faith that does not produce real life change...is worthless.**"*

# ***FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:***

James 1:2-4: **“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”**



James 1:5-8: **“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind... let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”**

# ***FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:***

James 1:13-15: **“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”**



VS. 19-20: **“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”**



VS. 27: **“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”**

# *FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:*

James 2:2-9: **“...if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes... have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? – If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin...”**

## **THE SIN OF 'PARTIALITY'**

# *FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:*

**James 3:2-6: “If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.**



# *FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:*

**TAMING  
THE  
TONGUE!**



James 3:6-10: **The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the [likeness] of God. Out of the same mouth proceeded blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.**

# ***FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:***

James 3:13-18: **“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”**



**HEAVENLY VS. DEMONIC  
WISDOM**



# ***FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:***

James 4:1-4: “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

**FRIENDSHIP  
WITH THE WORLD**

=

**SPIRITUAL  
ADULTERY**

# ***FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:***

James 4:6-10: **“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”**

**PRIDE**

**VS.** **HUMILITY**

# ***FAMILIAR PASSAGES / WISDOM FROM JAMES:***

James 5:13-16: “**Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**”

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VS. 19-20: “**If anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**”

# FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

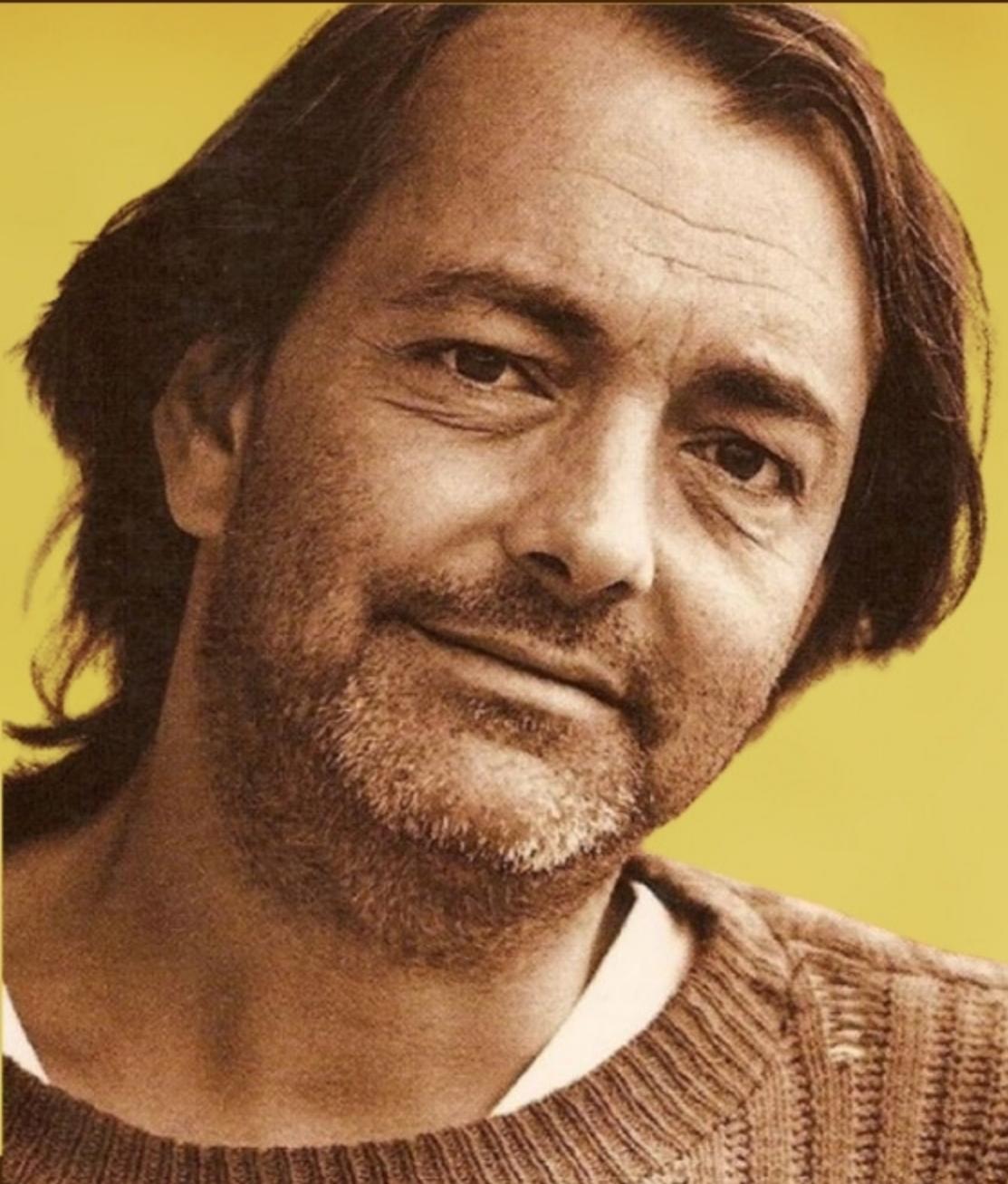
## A GOOD ENCAPSULATION OF JAMES:

James 2:14-17: **“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?”**

**“Thus also, faith by itself—if it does not have works—is dead.”**

VS. 18-20: **“But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”**

# **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS:**



‘Screen Door on a Submarine’

Rich Mullins  
1955 - 1997

**“Faith comes from God and every Word that  
He breathes... He lets you take it in your heart  
so you can give it hands and feet... It's gotta  
be active if it's gonna be alive... You gotta  
put it into practice... Otherwise... It's about as  
useless as a screen-door on a submarine...  
Faith without works... it just ain't happenin'...  
One is your right hand, one is your left...  
It's your light, your guide, your life, and your  
breath... Faith without works is like a song  
you can't sing... It's about as useless as a  
screen door on a submarine.”**

# *IS JAMES CONTRADICTING PAUL???*

Eph. 2:8-9: “**For by grace [we] have been saved through faith... NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.”**

Romans 4:4-5: “**Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who DOES NOT WORK... his FAITH is accounted for righteousness...**”

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**THE BOOK OF JAMES PRE-DATES  
ANY OF PAUL'S WRITINGS**

**WHICH ONE IS IT???**

**IS IT FAITH???**  
**OR IS IT WORKS???**

**YES!**

“One is your  
left hand, one  
is your right”

# FAITH VS. WORKS:



“As seen in their writings, the Jerusalem believers—James, Peter, and, to a lesser degree, John—tended to behave a bit more strictly than... Paul, Barnabas, and the Antioch believers who were primarily students... of Grace. Both groups were—and still are—NEEDED in the body of Christ. It’s like a trampoline: pressure from both sides is needed if the trampoline is to stay taut. So, too, with discipline and grace—both are essential [in the life of the believer].”

# **GOOD WORKS ARE NOT A BAD THING!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:18: “rich in good works...”
- Titus 3:8: “those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works...”
- Hebrews 10:24: “consider one another... [to] stir up... good works...”

Eph. 2:8-9: “...by grace you have been saved through faith... **NOT OF WORKS**...”

**THE  
VERY  
NEXT  
VERSE!** ➔

VS. 10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **FOR GOOD WORKS!**”

**WHICH  
ONE IS  
IT???**

**GOOD WORKS ARE NOT A BAD THING!**

**We Have Not Just Been  
Saved FROM Something**

← (Sin, Death, Hell)

**We Have Been  
Saved FOR Something**

← (Good Works)

Eph. 2:8-9: "...by grace you have been saved  
through faith... NOT OF WORKS..."

**THE  
VERY  
NEXT  
VERSE!** →

VS. 10: "For we are His workmanship, created  
in Christ Jesus FOR GOOD WORKS!"

**WHICH  
ONE IS  
IT???**

# **GRACE & WORKS AREN'T MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE:**

Titus 2:11-14: “**The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people...**

**ZEALOUS FOR GOOD WORKS.”**

*(Hot, Passionate)*

# *THE DIFFERENCE IS...*

**Paul Wrote to  
Address Works  
PRIOR to Salvation:**

*“By grace you have  
**been saved** through  
faith... not of works”*

**GOOD WORKS DO  
NOT SAVE US!**

**James Writes to  
Address Works  
AFTER Salvation:**

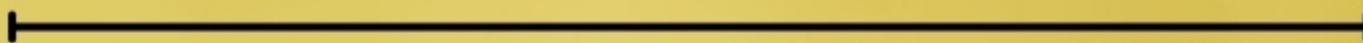
*“Show me your faith  
**WITHOUT YOUR  
WORKS”***

**But...**

**GOOD WORKS ARE THE  
EVIDENCE WE'VE BEEN SAVED**

# ***JESUS SAID IT THIS WAY:***

Matt. 7:17-20: **“Every good tree bears good fruit...” - “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit...” “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”**



Luke 13:6-9: **“A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ But [the keeper of the vineyard] answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’”**

# **FAITH IS AN ACTIVE THING:**

*“It is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good things incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done [them], and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such works... is an unbeliever. He gropes and looks around for faith and good works, but knows neither what faith is nor what good works are... He talks and talks with many words about [his] faith... [but there are no] good works.”*

**[Martin Luther / Preface to Romans]**

# DOERS OF THE WORD/WORK

## A KEY TO THIS...

James 1:21-25: **“...lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS the implanted word, which is able to save your souls...” “BUT, be DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”**

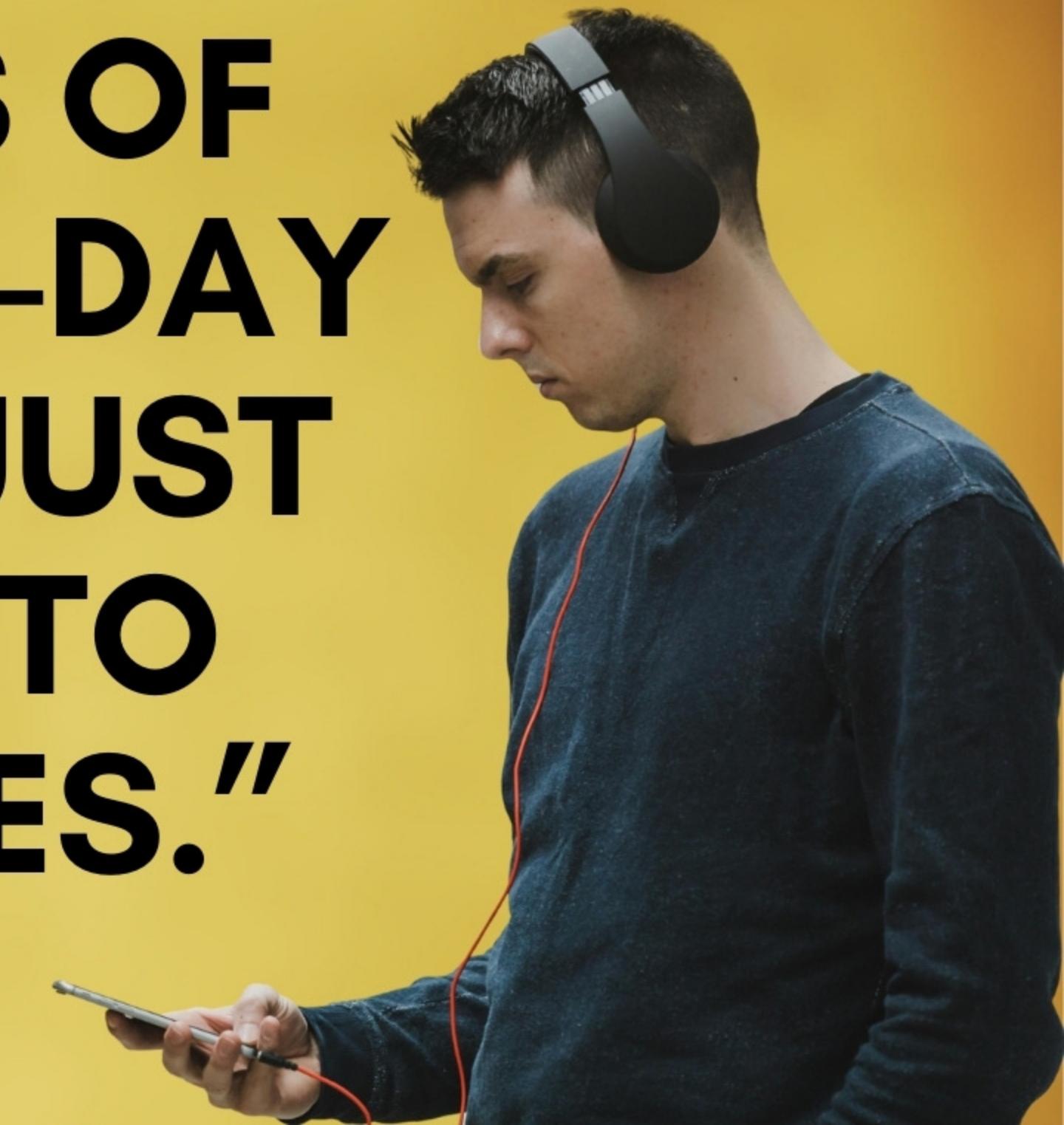
**“If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”**

**“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.”**

**BE  
DOERS  
OF THE  
WORD!  
WORK**

**BIBLE STUDY JUNKIES?**

**“ONE OF THE  
GREAT SINS OF  
THE MODERN-DAY  
CHURCH IS JUST  
LISTENING TO  
BIBLE STUDIES.”**



# **THE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE?**

Ezekiel 33:30-33: **“As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they [say] to one another... ‘come... hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.’**

**So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain... You are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument;**

**for they hear your words, but they do not do them.”**

# THE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE?

Ezekiel 33:30-33: "As for you, O house of Israel, say to them, 'You say, "We are a people who talk a lot about God, but we are not really doing what He says."'

**SAVING 'AMEN'  
DOES NOT MEAN WE  
ARE OBEDIING**

One  
an instrument;

# ***BE DOERS OF THE WORD!***

**James 1:23-25: “If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.**

**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 KEY TO RETAINING IS DOING!***

COMPARE TO  
JESUS WORDS:

*BE DOERS OF THE WORD!*

Matthew 7:24-27: **“Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock... the rain descended, the floods came, the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand...”**

**JESUS KNEW WE COULD HEAR AND NOT DO!**

# ***BE DOERS OF THE WORD!***

Matthew 7:24: “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, AND DOES THEM...”

James 1:25: “...not a forgetful hearer but a DOER OF THE WORK, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

**THE KEY TO RETAINING IS DOING!**

What the Christian Life  
**LOOKS LIKE!**

THE EPISTLE OF

# JAMES

Faith That  
**WORKS!**



THROUGH THE BIBLE

