

Helping the Wayward

James 5:19-20

“Brethren” – a reminder that James is writing to a saved audience

Four reasons to conclude that the recipients of the letter were already eternally saved:

- 1) The content of the letter is only appropriate instruction for people who have _____ believed in Christ. Topics such as the testing of one’s faith, eternal rewards, and the proper way to carry one’s faith are wholly inappropriate for an unconverted audience.
- 2) James refers to the audience as “brethren,” “my brethren,” and “my _____ brethren” throughout the entire letter.
- 3) James introduced himself as a slave of the Lord Jesus _____, and then makes no attempt to prove that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.
- 4) A reminder of their _____ is found explicitly in James 1:18. Compare with John 3:3 and 1 Peter 1:3, 22-25.

A. Hypothetical Situation: A Wanderer Is Turned Back (5:19)

REVIEW: A believer who _____ in the truth will be... (according to the book of James)

1. counting it all _____ when you fall into various trials (James 1:2-4)
2. asking the Lord for _____ needed to navigate the challenges of life (1:5-8)
3. considering their _____ situation to be of little importance compared to the blessedness of knowing the Lord forever (1:9-11)
4. enduring difficulty out of _____ for the Lord (1:12)
5. maintaining that God is _____ at all times (1:13-18)
6. receiving God’s _____ and humbly giving up all ideas which are contrary to God’s word (1:19-21)
7. acting by faith in God’s word and remaining _____ (1:22-27)
8. carrying the faith without partiality, being _____ to all just as God in Christ has offered eternal salvation to all (2:1-13)
9. demonstrating what they believe by means of good _____ (2:14-26)
10. guarding against the misuse of their _____ (3:1-9)
11. seeking wisdom as _____ defines wisdom (3:10-18)
12. drawing near to God by seeing themselves as lowly and in need of _____ (4:1-10)
13. keeping gracious _____ toward other believers (4:11-12)
14. taking God’s will into account when making plans for the _____ (4:13-17)
15. finding _____ in the sure coming of the Lord (5:1-8)
16. trusting that a compassionate God will make all _____ worthwhile (5:9-12)
17. praying in _____ circumstance (5:13-18)
18. longing for the _____ of their brothers and sisters in Christ (5:19-20)

1. A believer who wanders from the truth is walking _____ to the revealed will of God to their own harm.

** Understand the two modes of living available to all believers at any given moment:*

- **Romans 8:5** – *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*
- **1 Corinthians 3:1-3** – *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

2. A wonderful thing takes place when another believer turns the wanderer back to walking in the _____.

** How can this be done?*

- Accompanied by prayer, and in a spirit of _____ (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 6:18)
- Shining the _____ of God's word onto the path of darkness (Ps. 119:105)
- _____ a brother or sister out of love (Eph. 4:15; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:24-25)

B. Heaven's Perspective: Amazing! (5:20)

1. God is pleased because one of His _____ is saved from death.

** Saved from what?*

** How can a child of God live in death?*

- **Romans 8:6** – *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*
- **1 Timothy 5:6** – *But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.*

2. God is pleased because the _____ act of restoration has covered a multitude of sins.

**How are sins covered when a wanderer is brought back?*