

James – The Mark of a Mature Believer Works Wrought by Love

James 2

The 1st chapter of James focuses on how believers should evaluate and respond to the trials set before them in their day to day lives. Will we trust His character to bring us to maturity, or will we flee the trial to find pleasure in our own desires? Are we willing to be directed by His Word and be willing to lay aside all other distractions to go on to maturity in pursuing a relationship with Him?

*In this second chapter, James expands on the importance of being attentive hearers and doers of God’s Word. The Mark of a Mature Believer is described as one who practices the truth. Mature love (vs. 1-11) will lead to mature behavior (vs. 14-26) towards others and toward God. In contrast to the first chapter where the believer is exhorted to look into the perfect law of liberty and continue in it, chapter two will reveal that it is the law of liberty that will evaluate and judge **us** in our walk. It is only by cooperating with Him in the grace and freedom that is found in Christ that we will go unto maturity and be brought to the intended goal He has for our lives.*

CHAPTER ONE

His WILL is Directed by God’s Word

CHAPTER TWO

His WORKS are Wrought by Love

<u>The Test of FAITH</u>	<u>The Test of LOVE</u> (2:1-13)
A Proper Evaluation of Trials (1:1-12)	Favoritism vs. Faith
Trials from Without (1:2-12) <i>He Depends on Him (vs. 5)</i> <i>He does not Doubt His Character (vs. 6)</i> Temptations from Within (1:13-18) He is not Drawn Away by his own Desires (vs. 14) He Reflects on His Worthiness (vs. 17-18)	The Conflict of Favoritism verses Faith (vs.1) <i>Favoritism Illustrated (vs. 2, 3)</i> The Condemnation of Favoritism (vs. 4) The Contradictions of Favoritism (vs. 5 – 11) The Conclusion – The Law of Liberty and Judgment (vs. 12, 13)
A Positive Response to the Word of God (1:19-27)	<u>The Test of WORKS</u> (2:12-26)
Receptiveness to His Word (vs. 19-21) An Eagerness to Comprehend (vs. 19-20) A Willingness to Lay Aside Distractions (vs. 21a) A Tender Heart of Meekness (vs. 21b) Responsiveness to His Word (vs: 22-27)	Judgment vs. Justification The Judgment of the Believer’s Walk (2:12-20) The Justification of the Believer’s Walk (vs. 21-26)

I. The Test of the Believer’s Love – Favoritism vs. Faith (2:1-13)

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.

A. The Conflict of Faith vs. Favoritism (2:1-3)

- 1. It is Contrary to God’s EVALUATION (vs. 5a)**
- 2. It is Contrary to the Believer’s Present POSITION and Future INHERITANCE in Christ (vs.5b)**
- 3. It is Contrary to REALITY (vs. 6-7)**
- 4. It is Contrary to the WORD of God (vs. 8-11)**

Love is the King of all Laws

Royal— the law that is king of all laws, being the sum and essence of the ten commandments. The great King, God, is love; His law is the royal law of love, and that law, like Himself, reigns supreme. He “is no respecter of persons”; therefore to respect persons is at variance with Him and His royal law, which is at once a law of love and of liberty (Jam 2:12). *JFB*

The Mosaic Law is a Unit – A violation in one point pronounces one guilty of all

Jas 2:10-11 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

God does not rate sins as mankind does. The purpose of the Mosaic Law is to show us our guilt and need of grace.

The Present Judgment of the Believer – James 2: 12, 13

📖 James 2:12-13 So speak and so do [present / active / imperative] as those who will be [present / active participle] judged [present / passive / infinitive] by the law of liberty. (13) For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown [aorist / active / participle] no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The present judgment of the believer is by means of the law of liberty, which contains three qualities:

☐ **It is a LAW that can be Relied Upon**

A fixed principle that can be relied upon because it is backed by the character of God

☐ **It is PERFECT**

It is flawless, complete, and sufficient - and when the believer looks into it intently, it can bring about maturity for the walk.

🔔 **Perfect:** “to bring to the intended end/goal, complete, finish, make perfect. The basic idea is of bringing something or someone to the place where its/his designer intended.”

☐ **It Provides LIBERTY**

If we fail to utilize and respond to the Word of God in our present walk, He will in love provide the necessary correction and discipline for the believer.

II. The Test of the Believer’s Works – Judgment or Justification (2:12-26)

A. The Judgment of the Believer’s Walk (2:12-20)

1. Faith without Works is not **PROFITABLE** (vs. 14a; 16)
2. Faith without Works is Cannot **SAVE** (vs. 14b)
3. Faith without Works is **DEAD** (vs. 17)
4. Faith without Works is **DEMONICAL** (vs. 18-20)

B. The Justification of the Believer’s Walk (2:12-20)

➤ **The Example of Abraham** (vs. 21-24)

<u>Old Testament Reference</u>	<u>New Testament Reference</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>
Gen. 15:1-6 God must reckon His own righteousness to man through trust in Him.	Rom. 4:1-8	How an <u>unbeliever</u> is declared righteous before a Holy God – by faith apart from works

35-40 Years Later



Gen. 22:1-14 The Testing of a Believer’s Faith in regard to their walk	James 2:22 Heb. 11:17-19	How a <u>believer</u> is declared righteous in their walk – by faith in God’s promises <u>and</u> by cooperating with God in their walk.
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1. Faith with **WORKS** – Brings a Believer to Maturity (vs. 22)

➤ **The Example of Rahab** (vs. 25)

2. The **NECESSITY** for the Mutual Dependence of Faith and Works (vs. 26)