

# New Testament Survey NTS.10

*"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

The Epistles of Peter & James





# Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Learning Objectives. Participants will gain a high level understanding of:
  - a. Peter's epistles
  - b. James' epistle
  - c. Warnings to the Christian Church
2. For more information please visit [www.studioscriptura.com](http://www.studioscriptura.com)

## The New Testament Survey

seeks to presents Christianity's core tenets and doctrines for all that are interested in learning about Christianity. We seek to provide tools for believers to build a strong foundation and thereby help them bolster their faith in Christ. We seek to be purposeful and diligent in teaching the foundations of our beliefs, so we can earnestly contend for our faith.



1. **New King James Version. 1988.**  
**Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.**

Key  
Sources:





# James

1. Comprised of a series of related homilies. Partly for this reason, the letter resists clear structural demarcation. These *homilies* are structured by their pastor (i.e., James) to address many day to day issues faced by Christians.
2. Presents guidance on how to respond to *testing* experienced in the Christian life e.g., oppression, trials and challenges as one moves on to Christian maturity.
3. James speaks to the practical implications of a Christian worldview.
4. We see in James the flavor of pastoral admonition. Therefore we see imperative verbs (action the speaker or writer is telling someone else to do) occur with greater frequency than in other New Testament books.
5. James also rebukes and exhorts (emphatically urging someone to do something) his readers. Another feature we see in James is a very effective use of metaphors and figures of speech e.g., nature.
6. James' epistle is permeated by parallels to Jesus' teaching.





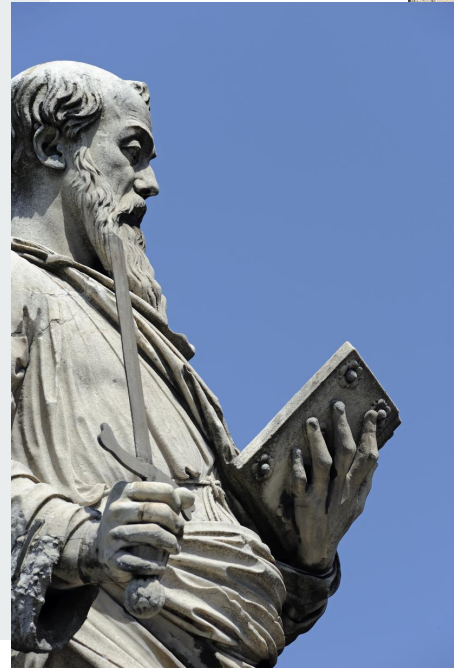
# James



6. James is included in the *General Epistles* because it does not address a specific church.
7. "There are at least four *James* in the New Testament: (1) *James* the son of Zebedee, brother of John, one of the Twelve (see, e.g., Mark 1:19; 5:37; 9:2; 10:35; 14:33); (2) *James* the son of Alphaeus, also one of the Twelve (see Mark 3:18, perhaps the same as "James the younger" in Mark 15:40); (3) *James* the father of Judas (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13); (4) *James*, "the Lord's brother" (Gal. 1:19), who plays a leading role in the early Jerusalem church (see Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18).
8. Of these four, the last is by far the most obvious candidate for the authorship of this letter. Supporting this are the striking similarities between the Greek of the Epistle of James and that of the speech attributed to James in Acts 15:13–21.
9. The most likely date for the epistle of James is between later 40sAD to early 60sAD

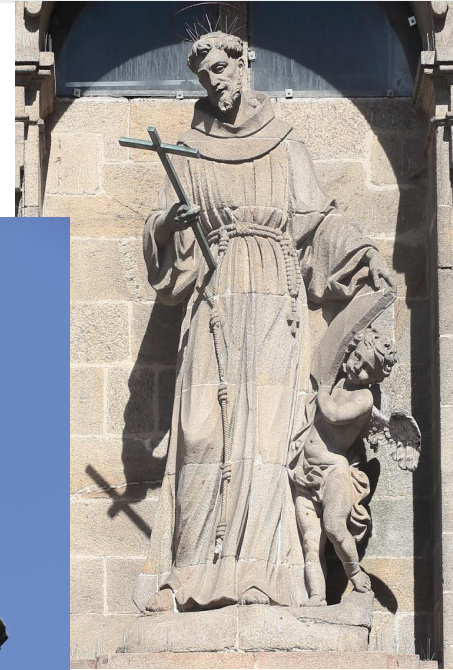
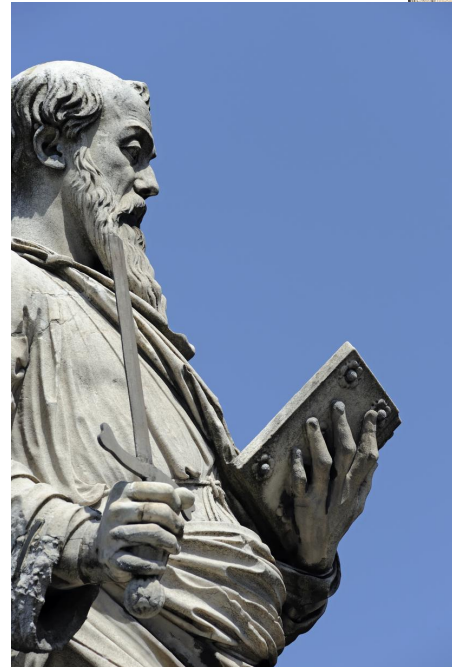
# James & Paul - Works *vis-à-vis* Faith

- Setting the stage:
  - 14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 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? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 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. **James 2**
  - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2**
  - 16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. **Galatians 2**



# James & Paul - Works *vis-à-vis* Faith

1. James insists that true faith is always marked, not by works of obedience to the law but by works of the fruit of the Spirit.
2. "He (James) resolutely opposes the tendency all too common among Christians to rest content with a halfhearted, compromising faith that seeks to have the best of both this world and the next. This *double-mindedness* is the basic sin for James. He insists that Christians repent of it and get back on the road to the whole and perfect character that God desires."
3. Paul and James, then, are talking about different aspects of the same thing: Paul speaks of the **declaration** of our righteousness by grace through faith, and James speaks of the **demonstration** of our righteousness by grace through faith.
4. *Legalism* is the attempt to base salvation on human works. *Licentiousness* is the desire to dismisses works as unnecessary for Christians and live ½ in the Church and ½ in the world.
5. So ... James and Paul support each other's positions and support our belief as Christians that saving faith is evidenced by works that are inspired by the Holy Spirit now operating in/through our life.







James 1

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

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

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 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.





James 2

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

9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.





## James 3

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

17 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.





James 4

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

7 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**.

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.





James 5

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 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.

16 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.

*The First Letter of*  
**PETER**

1:1 <sup>a</sup>2Pe 1:1 <sup>b</sup>1Pe  
2:11 <sup>c</sup>Jas 1:1 <sup>d</sup>Ac  
2:9 <sup>e</sup>Ac 16:6 <sup>f</sup>Ac  
16:7 <sup>g</sup>Mt 24:22  
Lk 18:7

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<sup>a</sup>Ro 8:29; 1Pe  
1:20 <sup>b</sup>2Th 2:13  
<sup>c</sup>1Pe 1:14, 22  
<sup>d</sup>Heb 10:22  
<sup>e</sup>1Pe 1:22

<sup>1</sup>Co 1:3  
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# 1st Peter

1. "In his first letter, Peter writes to Christians in Asia Minor who are suffering for their faith. He comforts them with reminders of the solid hope for salvation they enjoy because of Christ's death and resurrection and challenges them to maintain the highest standards of holy living as a witness to their persecutors."
2. "Peter calls on his readers to exhibit *piety under pressure* by exhibiting a lifestyle different from, yet attractive to, the hostile world. This is a means of glorifying God and of witnessing to a hostile but watchful world."



# 1st Peter

3. Some context:
  - a. Official persecutions: under Nero in 64–65 AD, under Domitian in 90–95AD, and under Trajan in 97–117 AD
  - b. Christians were also known to have faced hostility from the general Roman population. By refusing to engage in the quasi-religious customs surrounding the official Roman societal structures, by resolutely setting themselves against some of the immoral cultural practices prevalent at the time, and by meeting so often on their own to celebrate the Lord's Supper,
  - c. Christians were regarded with suspicion and hostility by the population of the Roman Empire The readers of 1 Peter were probably being criticized, mocked, discriminated against, and perhaps even brought into court on trumped-up charges.



## 1 Peter 1



3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

23 Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,





## 1 Peter 2



6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps

23 *Jesus*, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## 1 Peter 3



7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense/answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear



## 1 Peter 4



7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

## 1 Peter 5



2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

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, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.



...ade away.  
...men, in the same way be submis-  
...ose who are older. All of you, clothe  
...ves with humility toward one another,

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my son Mark. <sup>14</sup>Greet on  
of love.

Peace to all of you wh

## 2 Peter

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Jesus Christ,

those who through the righteousness of  
God and Savior Jesus Christ have received  
as precious as ours:

and peace be yours in abundance  
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<sup>5</sup>For this very reason  
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# 2nd Peter

1. "Peter frames his second letter with references to grace and knowledge: His purpose is to encourage his readers to become mature in their understanding and practice of the grace of God in Christ."
2. Other key reasons Peter pens this second epistle:
  - a. Provides warnings about false teachers in the community (Sound familiar from Paul to Ephesian elders and writer to Hebrews?!)
  - b. "Encourages believers to remember the teaching they have already received. Not as a mere intellectual act but as an act of the will - an imprinting of God's truth on the heart and the mind in a way that cannot help but lead to practical consequences."
  - c. "As if it were, on his deathbed, reminding readers for a last time of the truth that they need to embrace."





## 2nd Peter



3. 1st & 2nd Peter are classified as a "general" or "catholic" epistles. It is believed they were addressed and distributed to the church worldwide.
4. Peter enhances our understanding of biblical eschatology through his positive teaching about *the day of the Lord*
5. Peter's main point seems to be that this world is destined to be destroyed by fire and will be replaced by a *new heaven* and a *new earth*. See - Isaiah 65:17, 66:22, and Revelation 21:1.

## 2 Peter 1

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.





## 2 Peter 2

2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)



## 2 Peter 3

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

15 And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.





1. Which aspects of James & Peter's teachings impacted you the most? Why?
2. Why are there so many warnings of false teachers in the New Testament?
3. Per Peter, how should Christians respond to persecution?
4. Which of the practical teachings of James do you need to apply to your life?
5. Who are you inviting to "Jesus ... The Private Conversations"?

The background of the lower half of the slide is a composite image. On the left, a close-up of a man's hands clasped in prayer. On the right, a man with a beard and a yellow t-shirt looking out a window while holding a green mug.

So What &  
Now What?