

James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother

Warnings — James 2:8-13

Introduction

In James 2:8-13 he encourages us to use a crucial weapon — biblical warnings — to overcome sin.

What happens if we willfully disobey Jesus by showing partiality? (vv.8-9)

We are committing sin, which means we will be judged by the law as transgressors.

What does that mean? Why is that so serious? Before answering those questions, James deals with an objection:

But what if I've kept all the other commands? (vv.10-11)

"Are you telling me that one act of willful disobedience makes me 100% guilty — even if I've kept all the other commands?" That's exactly what James says: one area of willful, unrepentant disobedience shows that my heart is rebelling against Jesus — so I'm judged as 100% guilty.

If that's true, how should we live? (vv.12-13)

We should live as those who, at the end of history, will be judged by the law of liberty — the Gospel as taught in both Old and New Testaments.

At the end of history the law of liberty will say two things:

One is that if you were trusting Jesus, then you have been completely forgiven and are no longer seen as a transgressor of the law.

The other is that if you continued in known, willful, unrepentant sin, then this shows that you were not trusting Jesus, and so you were never saved, you have not been forgiven, and you face God's judgment forever.

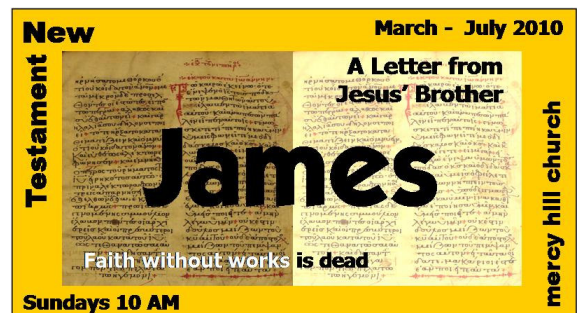
What does this mean for us?

Understand that God gives warnings because He loves us.

When you are tempted to sin, use God's warnings, such as James 2:8-13, Romans 8:13, Mark 9:43; Hebrews 10:26-27.

If you are involved in willful sin, hear God's warnings.

Let the warnings lead you, not to moral effort, but to trusting Jesus.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

To what extent have you used warnings in resisting temptation? If you have used them, what happened? If you have not, why not?

Have you ever rationalized a particular sin by thinking that your obedience in other areas makes up for it? Do you agree that one area of willful sin makes us completely guilty before God? Why or why not?

Do you agree that if you have an area of known, willful, unrepentant sin — then you are not trusting Jesus, and have no reason to think you have been forgiven and will be saved? Why or why not?

Why would it be dangerous to have the warnings move us toward moral effort? Why is it so crucial to let the warnings move us to trusting Jesus?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

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Faith without works is dead

Sundays 10 AM **mercy hill church**