

James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother **Bring Back Wanderers — James 5:19-20**

How could we tell if someone was wandering from the truth?

God has revealed to us the truth about the universe:
God, Creation, Sin, Salvation, Mission, and Restoration

If we are living in this truth, we will live the way James calls us to live.
If someone is not living the way James calls us to live, they are wandering from the truth.

How James calls us to live: 1:2, 21, 26, 27; 2:1, 16; 3:14; 4:1, 11, 13; 5:8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 19-20.

What does James call us to do when someone is wandering from the truth?

Bring them back to the truth.

Humbly — recognizing that you are also a sinner, and that you can be tempted to sin even in the act of seeking to bring them back.

Lovingly — motivated purely by love and compassion for them.

Grace-fully — with a massive focus on God's grace, forgiveness, heart-changing power.

Truth-fully — using specific verses from God's Word — the sword of the Spirit.

Prayer-fully — praying with and for them.

Why is it so crucial that we bring them back?

Because if they don't come back to the truth, then their souls will die forever in hell because their sins will not be covered by Christ's blood.

This does not mean someone can be genuinely saved and then lose their salvation. God promises that everyone He saves, He will keep persevering in faith until the end (Phil 1:6; Rom 8:28-30; Jude 1:24-25; Jeremiah 32:40-41).

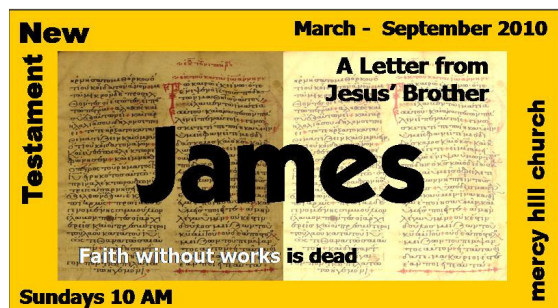
But God also says that we must persevere in faith until the end to be saved (Matthew 24:13; I Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 2:1-3; Romans 11:22; Romans 8:12-13; Hebrews 3:12-14).

So if our wandering brothers and sisters don't come back to the truth, this will show they were never genuinely saved, and they will be lost forever. That's why it's so crucial to bring them back.

What does this mean for us?

Church-community should involve this kind of loving, humbly, bringing-each-other-back to the truth.

Who do you need to bring back to the truth?



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

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

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

Are any of us wandering from the truth? Do we know of brothers or sisters who are wandering from the truth?

What keeps us from obeying James? What keeps us from seeing to bring wandering brothers or sisters back to the truth?

Does it make sense that eternity is at stake in whether or not I bring them back? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that the Bible teaches both that (1) when God saves us He promises to keep us persevering in faith until the end, and that (2) to be saved we must persevere in faith until the end?

Who are you going to seek to bring back to the truth? How? When?

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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A Letter from Jesus' Brother James

Faith without works is dead

Sundays 10 AM

mercy hill church