

JEWELS IN JAMES*

by Rev. Charles Svoboda

Introduction:

The epistle of James is the 59th book of the Bible, shelf No. 59 in a spiritual pantry of 66 shelves. God's Word is a spiritual pantry filled with good food for the soul, for the Bible says — "Thy words were found and I did eat them." Jer. 15:16

Five chapters, 108 verses written by James in an effort to get the readers to "Believe and behave." A challenge to live a "Shoe leather Christianity."

The key words are "Faith" found 16 times and "Works" found 15 times. It was John Calvin who said:

"Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone." The above statement is backed up by what we read in Ephesians 2:8-10.

"for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

—saved by faith and proving that it is real by good works.
—it could be summed up by the poem:

I AM MY NEIGHBOR'S BIBLE

I am my neighbor's Bible, He reads me when we meet,
Today he reads me in my home, Tomorrow on the street,
He may be relative or friend, Or slight acquaintance be,
He may not even know my name, Yet he is reading me.

I have found that in teaching the Book of James for some 27 years that a beautiful outline springs forth out of the letters in James' name. Each letter leads to a key word in each chapter, and that word unlocks the chapter. This can't be done with each Book of the Bible, it does work in the Epistle of James. Note this simple outline which I came up with while using my Scofield Bible. May it prove to be a blessing to you.

Joy — in James 1:2.

This is God's spiritual arithmetic verse, count it all joy. James is writing to backslidden brethren who were moaning and groaning. The word "brethren" is found 15 times in the epistle and each time it relates to a problem with the brethren, complaining brethren 1:2, erring brethren 1:16, hot tempered brethren 1:19 etc. Trace all 15 references.

Apparel — in James 2:2.

This is the great discrimination chapter of Scripture. Note the word "brethren" again in 2:1, discriminating brethren. Do we see all people regardless of color, background, finances, etc., as folk with never dying souls, or do we show preferential treatment because of what we see on the exterior? God still heads up the Dept. of Interior — Jer. 17:10. God runs His tape measure around the heart.

Masters — in James 3:1.

The brethren were good talkers, but poor walkers. This is God's great tongue chapter. Note 3:8, "the tongue can no man tame" but God is not a man, He is, the God-man and can tame the tongue. Note Mark 5:4 and another incident with the words, "any man" or no man. God can do anything, Luke 18:27. God made the body (Gen. 2:7), He can tame one's tongue when given to Him.

Envy — in James 4:5.

The challenge is to give ourselves unreservedly to the Holy Spirit. Like someone said, "The Holy Spirit is resident in you, now make Him President in you." The Scriptures speak of a Godly jealousy (2 Cor. 11:2). God wants us all for Himself. One should read 1 Cor. 6:19 in connection with James 4:5. Note the thought of worldly brethren in James 4:11.

Sickness — in James 5.

Two types of sickness, first, spiritual in 5:1-6 which is dealing with the unsaved, and secondly, physical in 5:7-20 which deals with a saved one who has been out of fellowship with God (5:15) and ended up with physical problems. Note 1 Cor. 11:30 to see where some are physically sick because of wilful disobedience to God. Impatient and grudging brethren are found in James chapter 5.

*The Author used the old King James Version for this study.

