

# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

JAMES 2:1-13

FAITH

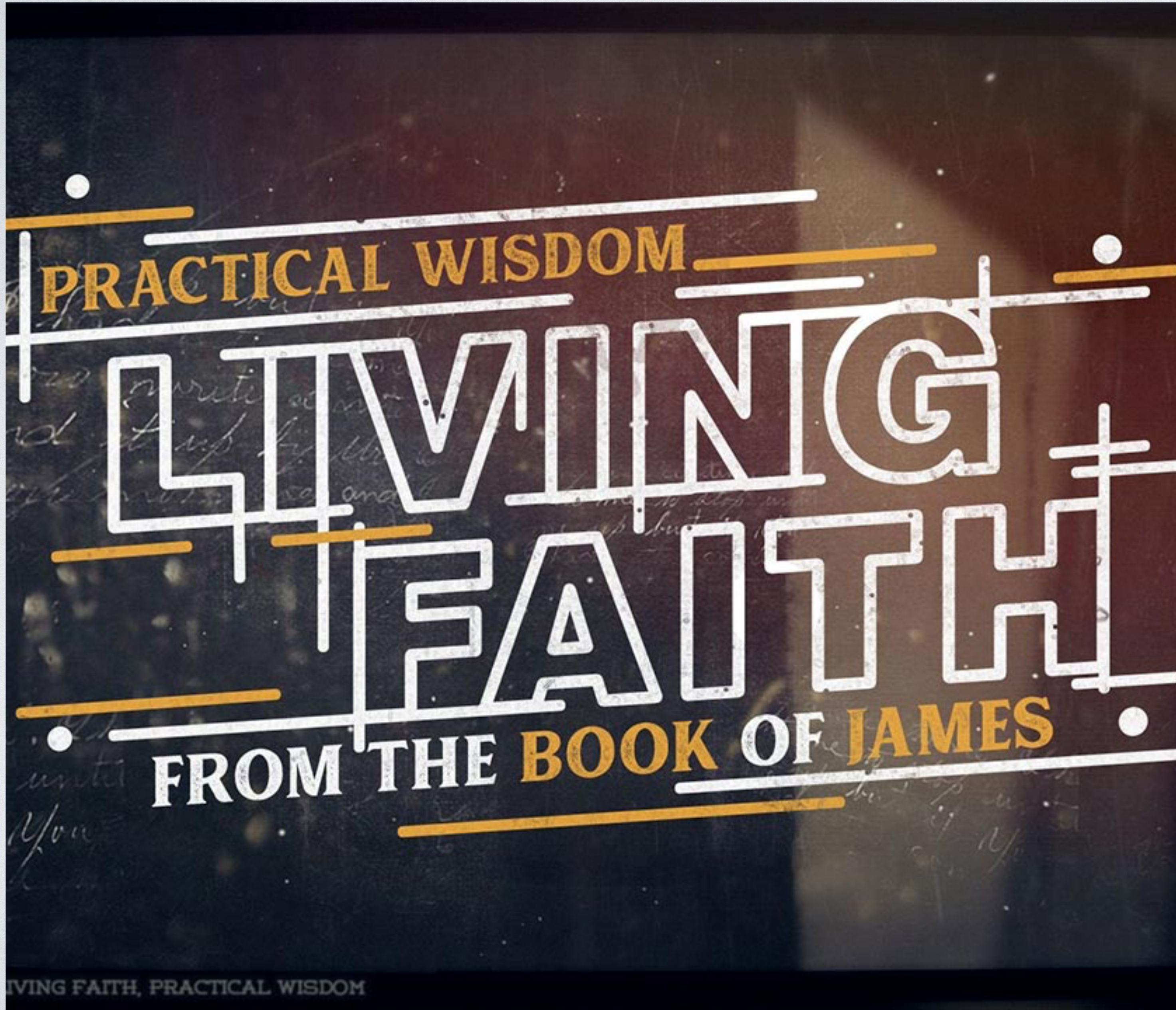
WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
*the Lord* of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1 - NKJV)



# INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM

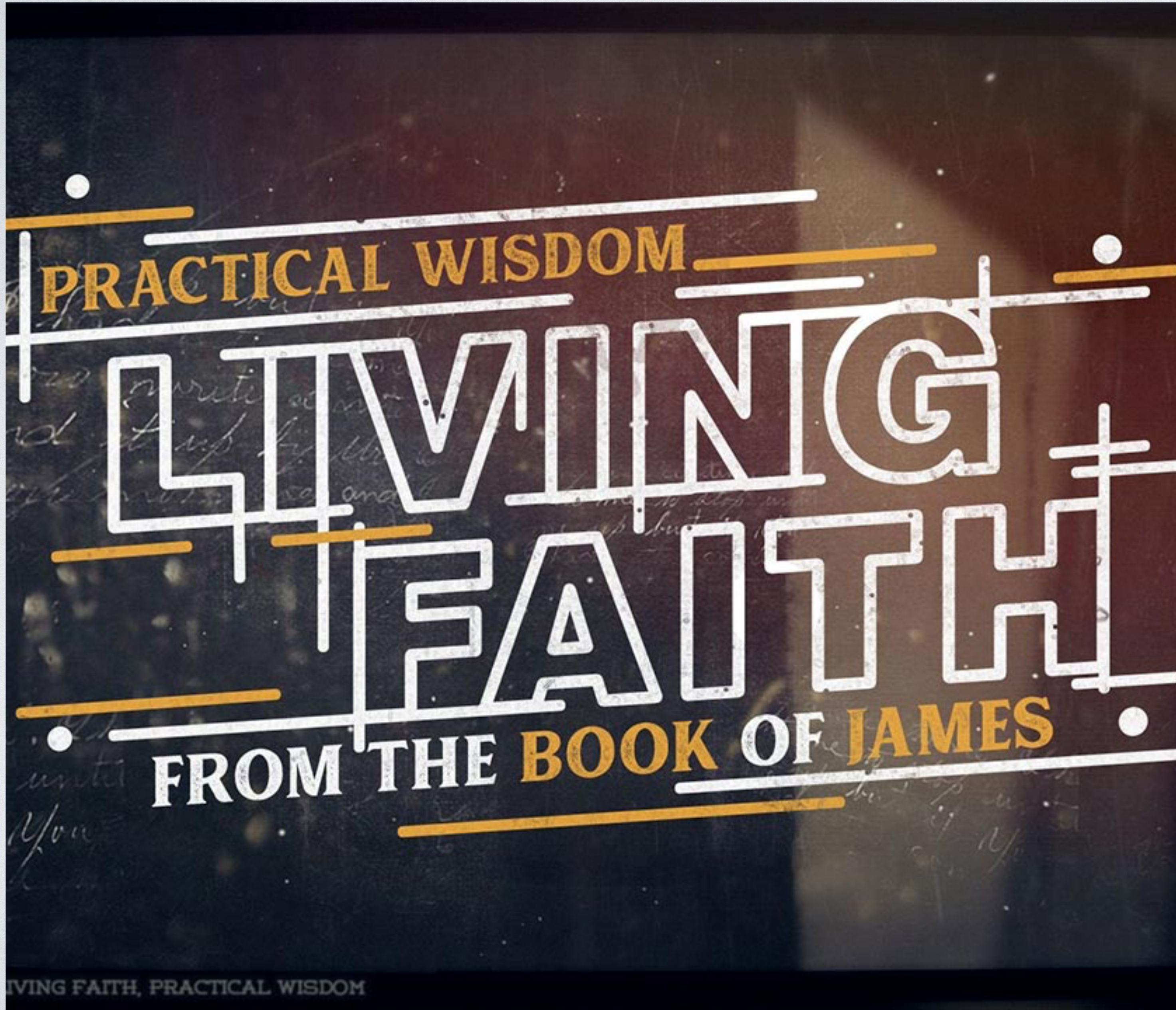


## Epistle of Common Sense

- The value and necessity of faith in every aspect of the Christian's life - especially in view of the challenges and trials of this life!



# INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM



- **TRIALS** (1:2-12)
- **TEMPTATION** (1:13-16)
- WE MUST BE **DOERS OF THE WORD** - (1:17-27)
- THE SIN OF **PARTIALITY** IS ANTITHETICAL TO THE CORE MESSAGE AND NATURE OF THE GOSPEL (2:1-13)



FAITH

&

PARTIALITY

ARE INCOMPATIBLE

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
*the Lord* of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1 - NKJV)

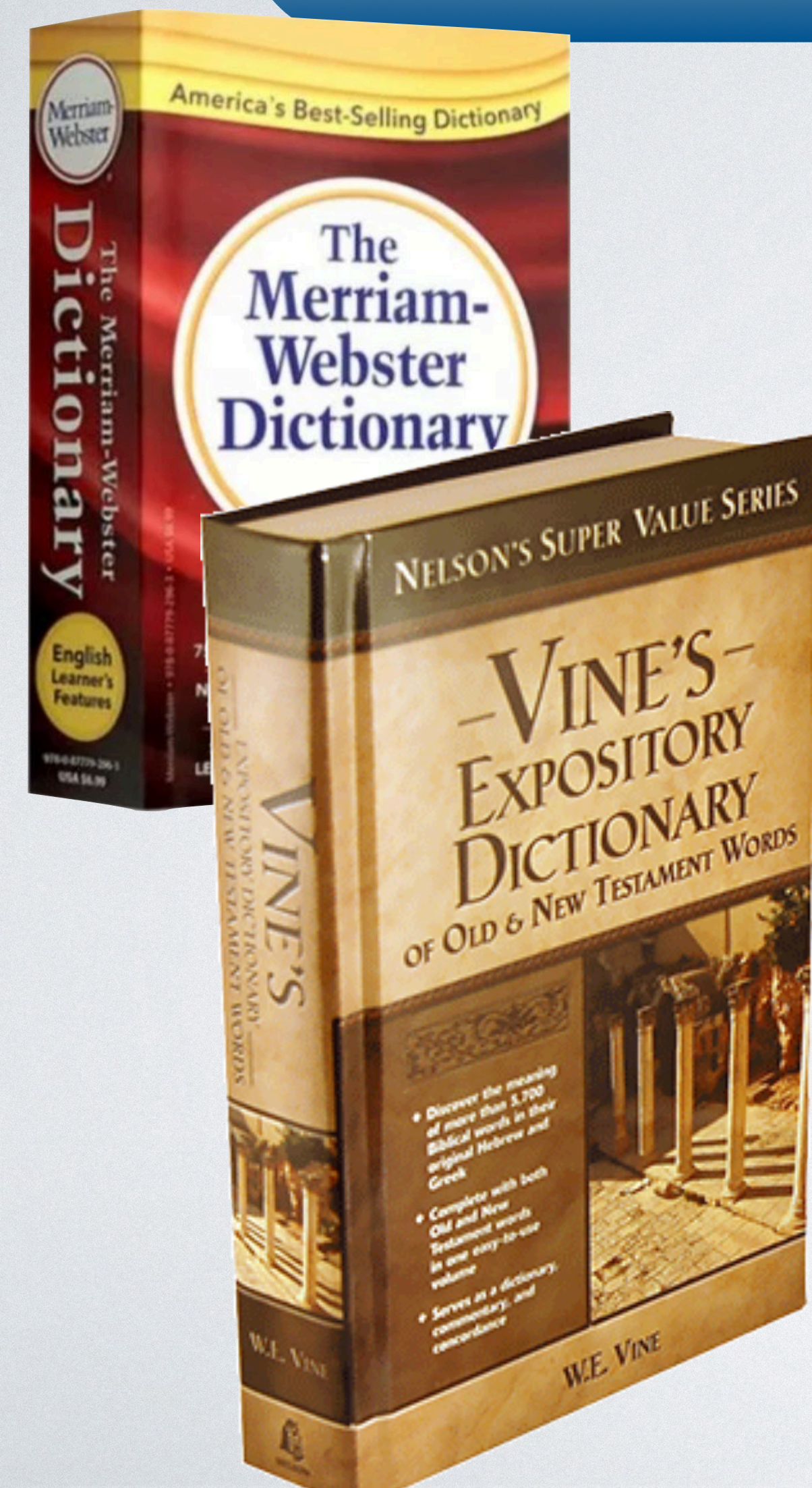


# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

### TO DEFINE:

- **PARTIALITY** : *prosōpolēmpsia* : to make unjust distinctions between people by treating one person better than another—‘to show favoritism, to be partial, ...’ (Louw Nida 88.238)
- **PARTIALITY** : *prosōpolēmpsia* “respect of persons, partiality” ... respect to the position, rank, popularity, or circumstances of men, instead of their intrinsic conditions, preferring the rich and powerful to those who are not so, Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; Jas. 2:1. [Vine’s]



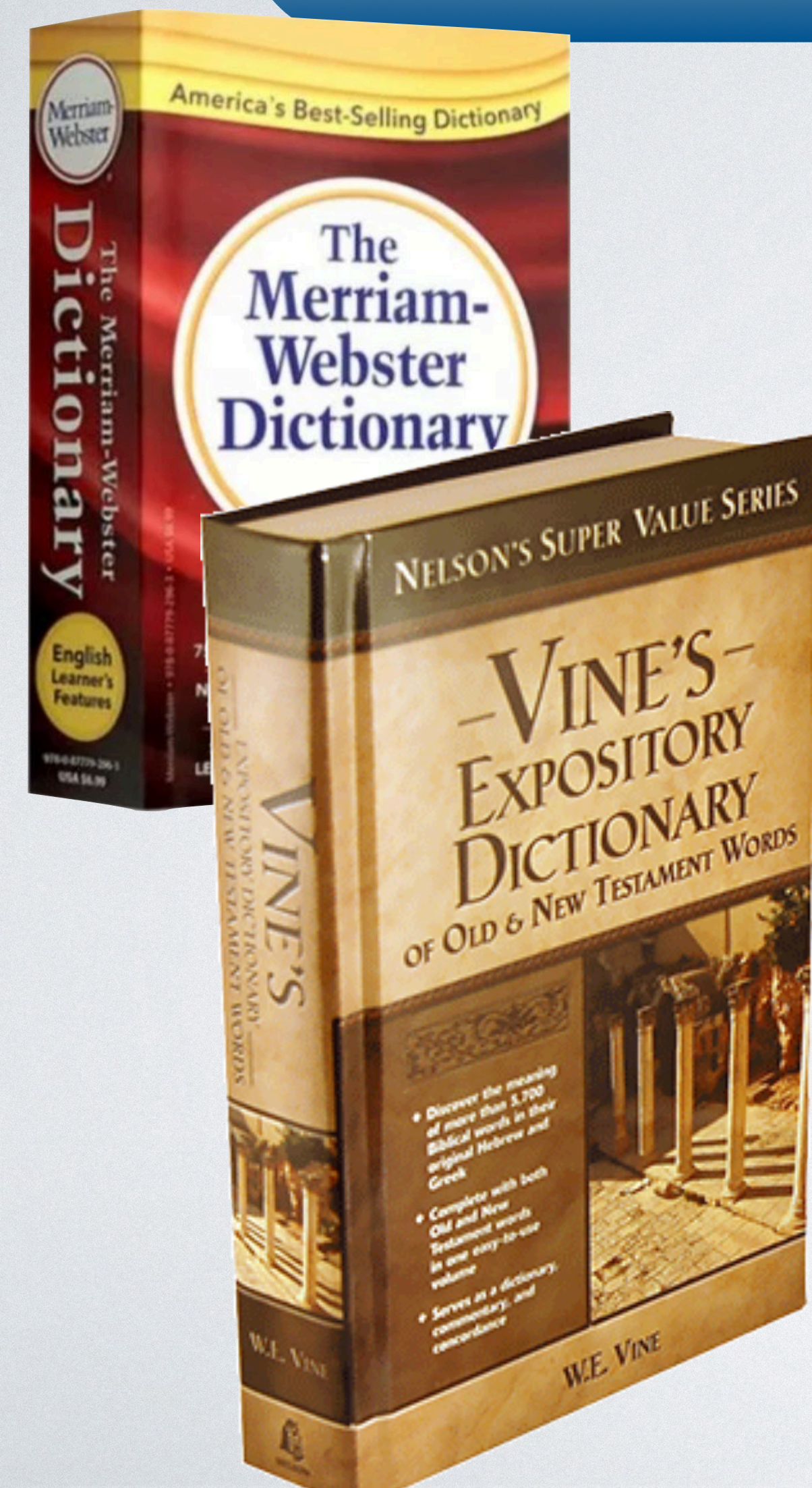


# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

### TO DEFINE:

- **Prejudicial / To Prejudge / Unjust / Bias :**  
Making a judgment concerning someone upon a superficial basis - and then acting towards that person as though the judgment were valid.
- **ANTITHETICAL :** being in direct and unequivocal opposition : directly opposite or opposed [Merriam Webster]





# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? <sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, “*Do not commit adultery,*” also said, “*Do not murder.*” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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

- Polarized conditions existed :  
(rich or poor, slaves or free, Jew or Gentile, Greek or barbarian, male or female)
- In Christ Jesus all social barriers are torn down (Col. 3:11; Gal. 3:28; Rom. 10:12; 1 Cor. 12:13)



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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

**Colossians 3:9–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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

**Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

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

■ "The Sin Of Partiality" is still prevalent today, (race, level of education and income, health, age, gender)





# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## ANTITHETICAL TO THE GOSPEL

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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

- It is inconsistent to claim faith in Jesus as *Ruler, Savior, God*, & show respect of persons (Mt 8:5,10; Luke 7:36; Jn 7:24)
- As Christians, we profess to be Christ's followers, and are to obey and imitate Him (Jn 4:4-9; Lk 6:39-45)
- If we show partiality we ARE NOT truly following Jesus, we dishonor Him, and turn people away from Him (Rom. 2:23,24; Luke 6:46)



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## IS EVIL THINKING & JUDGING



### James 2:2–4 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## IS EVIL THINKING & JUDGING

James 2:2-4  
(NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> have you not  
shown partiality  
among yourselves,  
and become judges  
with evil thoughts?

- To treat a person differently because of their economic or social class, their nationality or race, or any other superficial quality is to “**become judges with evil thoughts!**” ((Mat. 7:1–5; Jno. 7:24.)
- Economic class, education, race or nationality, cultural or religious backgrounds have no bearing on our value before God, nor should these things have any bearing on the value we place on others! (Job 34:19; Acts 10:34)



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## OPPOSITE THE NATURE OF GOD (2:5-7)

James 2:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

- “God has chosen the poor” (1:9; Job 34:19; John 7:48; 1 Cor. 1:27)
- Poverty is not a virtue in itself, nor is wealth! (Proverbs 30:9)
- Poor possess less occasions for pride - and often more open to the gospel message (1 Cor 1:26-28)
- God is NOT A RESPECTER of PERSONS, but accepts ALL WHO LOVE HIM (Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11)



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## OPPOSITE THE NATURE OF GOD (2:5-7)

James 2:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

- Was it reasonable for them to show preferential treatment for the rich, for those who oppressed them, took from them, and blasphemed Christianity? (Jam 5:1-6; Ps. 14:6; Ec. 9:15, 16; etc)
- Others may “blaspheme” the name, (Acts 11:26; 13:45; 18:6; 26:11, 28; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Tim. 1:13; 1 Pet. 4:14, 16), but only unfaithful Christians could truly dishonor it, (Rom. 2:24; 1 Tim. 6:1; Titus 2:5)



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## VIOLATES THE LAW OF LOVE (2:8,9)

James 2:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- God's law, (both the O.C. & N.C.), says love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:15,18; Deut 6:4,5; Mat 7:12; 19:19; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:36,37ff; Rom 13:8,9; Gal 5:14)
- To be guilty of violating God's law in ANY point is to stand condemned before God (2:10,11; Gal. 3:10)



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## VIOLATES THE LAW OF LOVE (2:8,9)

James 2:10,11 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, “*Do not commit adultery,*” also said, “*Do not murder.*” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

- God's law, (both the O.C. & N.C.), says love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:15,18; Deut 6:4,5; Mat 7:12; 19:19; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:36,37ff; Rom 13:8,9; Gal 5:14)
- To be guilty of violating God's law in ANY point is to stand condemned before God (2:10,11; Gal. 3:10)
- Partiality is just as much sin as adultery.



# THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

## VIOLATES THE LAW OF LOVE (2:8,9)

James 2:12–13 (NKJV)  
<sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as  
those who will be judged  
by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>  
For judgment is without  
mercy to the one who  
has shown no mercy.  
Mercy triumphs over  
judgment.

- The “perfect law of liberty” is the gospel - the law that has set us free from the bondage of sin through the mercy shown in Christ (1:25; Jn 8:31-36; Gal. 5:1)
- We must stand fast in this “liberty” by submitting to it (Gal. 5:1; Rom 13:9,10)
- The gospel demands mercy (2:13; Mat 6:14,15; 7:1,2; 12:7,8; Eph 2:4-7)



**FAITH**

**&**

**PARTIALITY**

**ARE INCOMPATIBLE**

**TO APPLY**



**DO WE VIEW  
EVERY SOUL as  
being EQUALLY  
valuable?  
Jesus died for  
each & every one!  
(1 John 2:1,2)**

■ **EVANGELISM:** The Gospel Is For ALL

- ▶ All nations (Mat 28:19)
- ▶ Every creature (Mark 16:15)
- ▶ Every race, nationality - Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, genders (Acts 2:8; 10:34; Gal. 3:28)
- ▶ Rich & poor (Gal 3:28; Col 3:11)



# FAITH

# &

# PARTIALITY

# ARE INCOMPATIBLE

## TO APPLY



<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 3:28 (NKJV)**

### ■ CONGREGATIONAL:

- ▶ Welcoming to all (James 2:1-8)
- ▶ Equally extend love, kindness, mercy & hospitality to all (Rom. 12:3-16)
- ▶ Opportunities for all to serve as allowed in scripture (1 Cor. 12:13-26; 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:10-15)
- ▶ Discipline (1 Cor. 5; 2 Thes. 3:13-15)



**FAITH**

**&**

**PARTIALITY**

**ARE INCOMPATIBLE**

**TO APPLY**



**Brethren, we serve A GLORIOUS LORD,  
and we are to serve to His glory**

**May we NEVER allow the sin of  
partiality, bias, prejudice, or racism to  
taint that wonderful glory in any way!**



**FAITH**

**&**

**PARTIALITY**

**ARE INCOMPATIBLE**

**TO APPLY**



**Jesus considered you valuable enough to die for you - will you honor Him by obeying Him? (Mk. 16:16; 2 Cor. 5:14,15)**

**God will judge each one of us according to the gospel of His Son without partiality (Acts 17:30; Rom. 5:11)**







**FAITH**

**&**

**PARTIALITY**

**ARE INCOMPATIBLE**

Preached July 16, 2023

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## Matthew 12:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. <sup>2</sup> And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!” <sup>3</sup> But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?”



## Matthew 12:1–8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? <sup>6</sup> Yet I say to you that in this place there is *One* greater than the temple. <sup>7</sup> But if you had known what *this* means, ‘*I desire mercy and not sacrifice,*’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”



# 30 BIBLE VERSES

*about*

## PARTIALITY

James 2:1

Galatians 3:28

James 2:4

Proverbs 28:21

Deuteronomy 10:17

James 2:9

James 2:1-4

Micah 6:8

Job 34:19

Colossians 3:11

Acts 10:34-35

Acts 10:34

Leviticus 19:15

Deuteronomy 1:16-17

Colossians 3:25

Jude 1:16

John 3:16

1 Samuel 16:7

Proverbs 24:23

Matthew 7:1

Romans 2:11

1 Timothy 5:21

James 3:17

Acts 10:35

Ephesians 6:9

Romans 1:16

James 2:8-9

Deuteronomy 1:17

Isaiah 1:17

1 Corinthians 12:13