

The Epistle Of James

James 2:13 (NKJV)

“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”



“The Sin of Partiality”—
James 2:1-13

“The Sin of Partiality”

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



📖 Joy in trials, and enduring them through faith - 1:1-12

📖 Overcoming temptation to do evil through faith - 1:13-16

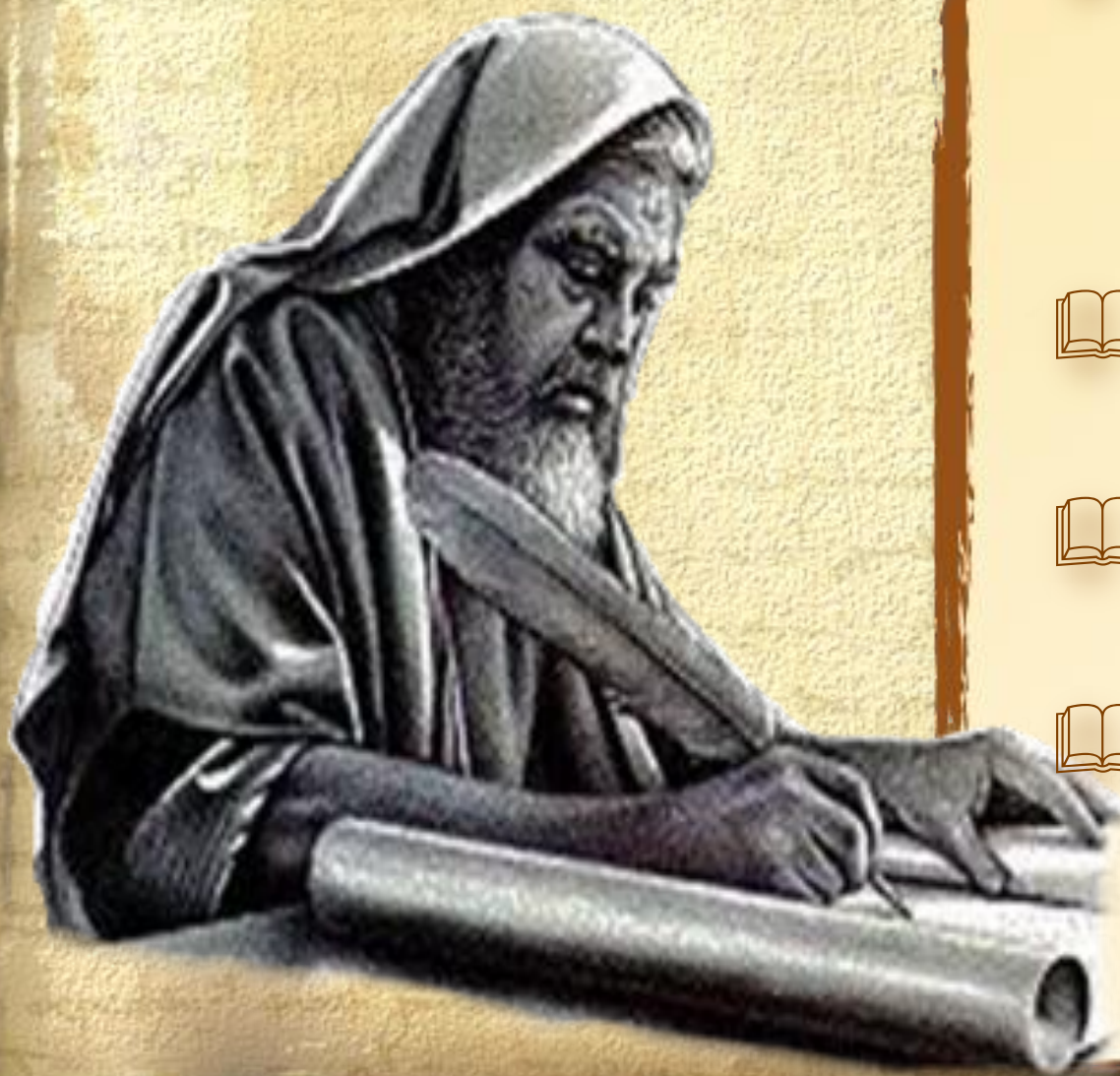
📖 Overcoming anger through faith - 1:17-19

📖 Being doers of the word by faith - 1:20-27

📖 James 2:1 marks a transition to another point - the matter of “favoritism” or “prejudice” has no place in those who have faith in Christ.

"The Sin of Partiality"

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



📖 In the first century, A.D., polarized conditions governed society; people were either rich or poor, slaves or free, Jew or Gentile, Greek or barbarian

📖 However, in Christ Jesus all social barriers are torn down - (Acts 10:34,35; Col. 3:11; Gal. 3:28)

📖 Showing partiality was being practiced and its sinfulness needed to be pointed out

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

“The Sin of Partiality”

James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

¹My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. ² 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, ³ 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,”

“The Sin of Partiality”

James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ 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? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

“The Sin of Partiality”

James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

⁸ If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well; ⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

“The Sin of Partiality”

James 2:1–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ 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. ¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

“The Sin of Partiality”

Defining Partiality

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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



Louw Nida 88.238 - (an idiom, literally ‘to accept a face’): to make unjust distinctions between people by treating one person better than another — ‘to show favoritism, to be partial, partiality.’



Making a judgment concerning someone upon a superficial basis - and then acting towards that person as though the judgment were valid.

“The Sin of Partiality”

Partiality Is Contrary To The Faith We Have In Jesus (2:1-4)

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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

◆ **“Do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord” - (NASB)**

It is inconsistent to claim faith in Jesus & show respect of persons - (John 4:9; Mat 8:5,10; 4:18,19; 9:9,10; Luke 7:36; John 7:24)

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory” - [*Ruler, Savior, God*] - Ps. 24:7-10; 1 Cor. 2:8; Tit 2:13; Heb 1:2,3

“The Sin of Partiality”

Partiality Is Contrary To The Faith We Have In Jesus (2:1-4)

James 2:1 (NKJV)

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

◆ **The illustration:**

- 📄 A gold-fingered and brilliantly clothed man comes into the assembly as well as a poor man in dirty clothes also enters, (rypara, “dirty” or “vile” cf Rev 22:11)
- 📄 Special attention and preferential seating is given to the rich man, and standing room only or an inferior seat on the floor (*lit.*, “*under my footstool*”) is afforded the poor man.

“The Sin of Partiality”

Partiality Is Contrary To The Faith We Have In Jesus (2:1-4)

James 2:4 (NKJV)

have you not
shown partiality
among yourselves,
and become
judges with evil
thoughts?

◆ The rhetorical question:

“Are you not divided, (*wavering, doubting*), harboring thoughts at variance with your professed faith in Christ?” (1:6)

They had discriminated between the two based on “appearance,” (Jn 7:24).

“Of evil thoughts” is a descriptive phrase - i.e., “you have become evil thinking judges.” (Job 21:27;


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Partiality Is Contrary To The Faith We Have In Jesus (2:1-4)

James 2:4 (NKJV)

have you not
shown partiality
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thoughts?

♦ The problem with this standard should be evident:

 Judgment & treatment should not be
based on "*character-neutral*" attributes!

 Instead they should have looked to see
if they were clothed in righteousness or
not, (Is 6:10), or humility, (1 Pet. 5:5), or
love, (Col. 3:14).

“The Sin of Partiality”

Partiality Is Contrary To Reason & Experience (2:5-7)

James 2:5 (NKJV)

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 is no respecter of persons** - Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11

📄 “God has chosen the poor” - (1:9; John 7:48; 1 Cor 1:26-28)

📄 Being poor in and of itself is not a virtue - but less occasions for pride - and more open to the gospel message

📄 was it reasonable for them to show preferential treatment for the rich?

“The Sin of Partiality”

Partiality Is Contrary God's Law - Thus Sinful (2:8-13)

James 2:9 (NKJV)

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

◆ **God's law says love your neighbor as yourself** - 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 condemned by the Law** - (2:10,11; Gal. 3:10)

“The Sin of Partiality”

Partiality Is Contrary God's Law - Thus Sinful (2:8-13)

**James 2:12
(NKJV)**

So speak and so do
as those who will
be judged by the
law of liberty.

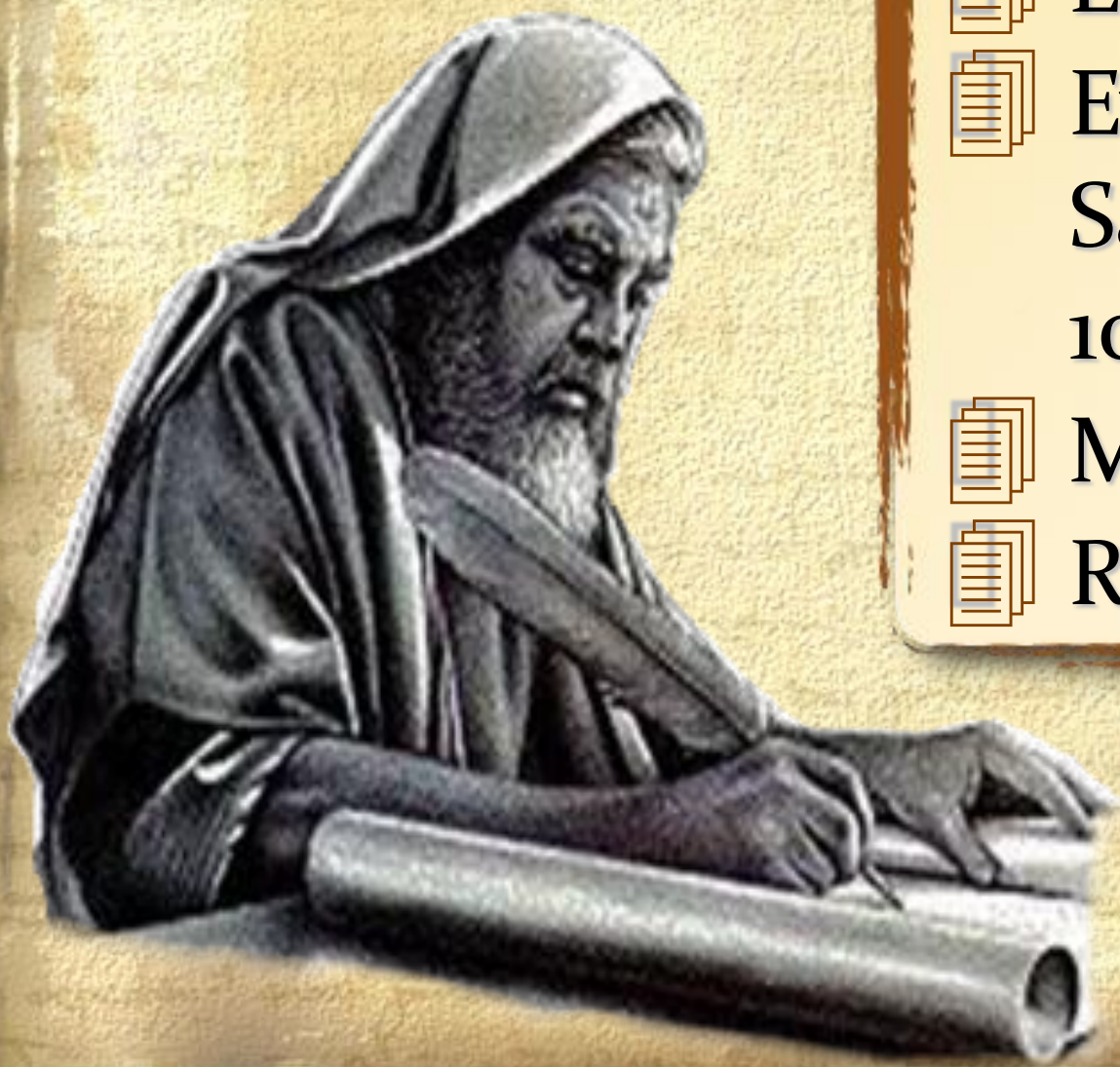
♦ **The gospel** - the law that has set
us free from the bondage of sin
through the mercy shown in Christ
- Jn 8:31-36

📄 **We must stand fast in this
“liberty” by submitting to it -**
(Gal. 5:1; Rom 13:9,10)

📄 **Demands mercy - (2:13; Mat
6:14,15; 7:1,2; 25:41-46; Eph 2:4-7)**

“The Sin of Partiality”

The Gospel Is For ALL



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

**Every soul is equal in value -
for Jesus died for each and
every one! - 1 John 2:1,2**

“The Sin of Partiality”



“Of all human ambitions an open mind, eagerly expectant of new discoveries and ready to remold convictions in the light of added knowledge, is the noblest and rarest. Prejudice is a robber which many of us entertain in our hearts. It robs us of generous feelings which we should have for others and leaves us the tormentings of hate; by shutting our eyes and stopping our ears. It robs us of many precious truths and leaves us the dross of our distorted opinions; it robs us of light, and shuts us in darkness of our own ignorance. No other robber can leave us so poor.”

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Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.



"God will judge without partiality"
Romans 2:11

The Epistle Of James

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John 7:16-24 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. ¹⁹ Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

John 7:16-24 (NKJV) ²⁰ The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" ²¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. ²² Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."