

# **Outline of the Letter of James**

By Michael Hite

## **I. Greeting (1:1)**

## **II. The Need for Wisdom in Trials (1:2-12)**

- A. The Purpose of Trials in Christian Life (1:2-4)
- B. Acquiring Wisdom in Trials (1:5-8)
- C. Wisdom in the Trial of Poverty (1:9)
- D. Wisdom in the Trial of Wealth (1:10-11)
- E. The Reward of Perseverance in Trials (1:12)

## **III. The Need for Wisdom in Temptation and Sin (1:13-18)**

- A. True Source of Temptation and Sin (1:13-16)
- B. God Consistency in Providing Only Good Gifts (1:16-18)
- C. The Example of the Word of Truth (1:18)

## **IV. The Need for Wisdom in Doing God's Word (1:19-2:26)**

- A. Our Desire for God's Good Gift of the Word of Truth (1:19-20)
- B. The Power of God's Good Gift of the Word of Truth (1:21)
- C. The Importance of Doing the Word (1:22-27)
  - 1. The Importance of Doing and Not Just Hearing (1:22)
  - 2. We Must Examine Our Lives in the Mirror of the Word of Truth and Make Changes (1:23-25)
  - 3. Doing the Word Means Controlling Our Tongue (1:26)
  - 4. Doing the Word Means Helping Widows and Orphans (1:27)
  - 5. Keeping oneself unstained by the world (1:27)

## **V. The Need for Wisdom in Response to the Stains of the World**

- A. The World Stain of Partiality and Prejudice (2:1-13)
  - 1. Partiality Shown in Judging by Appearances (2:2-7)
  - 2. Solution: So Speak and So Act as One Who Will Be Judged by God (2:12)
  - 3. Solution: Show Mercy (2:13)
- B. The World Stain of Belief that Faith Without Works Can Save us (2:14-26)
  - 1. Faith Only is Not Enough (2:14-20)
  - 2. The Example of the Demons (2:19-20)
  - 3. The Example of Abraham (2:21-24)
  - 4. The Example of Rahab (2:25)
  - 5. Solution: Understanding that Faith Without Works is Dead (2:26)
- C. The World Stain of a Jealousy and Ambition (3:1-18)



1. Understanding the Dangers and Destructive Power of the Tongue (3:2-12)
2. Solution: The Need to Demonstrate the Proper Source of Wisdom (3:12-17)
- D. The World Stain of Materialism and Feeding Our Pleasures (4:1-5)
  1. The Sins of Lust and Envy (4:1-3)
  2. The Sin of Spiritual Adultery (4:4-5)
  3. Solution: Humility and Submission (4:6-12)
    - a) Humility is the Solution to Worldly Pride (4:6-10)
    - b) Humility Understands Who is in Charge (4:11-12)
- E. The World Stain of Self-Rule (4:13-5:6)
  1. Planning Without Considering God's Will (4:13-17)
  2. Both Accumulating and Misusing Wealth Without Considering God's Will (5:1-6)

## **VI. Godly Wisdom is Focused on the Spiritual Over the Physical (5:7-20)**

- A. Wisdom Waits for the Coming of the Lord and Understands the Judge is Watching (5:7-12)
- B. Wisdom Knows the Prayers of a Righteous Man Accomplishes Much (5:13-18)
  1. Focus on the Spiritual Condition Over the Physical Condition (5:14:16)
- C. Wisdom Understands the Value of the Soul Over the Body (5:19-20)