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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The Book of James is about as straight-forward a book as you will find in the New Testament.
 - There is a higher percentage of commands in the Book of James than in any other book of the Bible.

- James did not write this epistle to instruct his reader,
 - As much as to exhort persecuted Christians to put their faith into practice.
 - If you want “practical,” this is a book for you.

- **James the brother of our Lord**
is believed to be
the writer of this letter.
(**Galatians 1:19**)
 - This epistle is written to
Jewish Christians,
 - Who were facing
a great deal of persecution
and hardship because of their
allegiance to Jesus Christ.

- Facing difficult times some would be tempted to take the easy way out and make

“friends with the world”

as James puts it.

(**James 4:4**)

so as to avoid persecution.

- This letter is a divinely inspired sermon,
- Intended to be read in the refugee churches throughout Palestine.
- He is believed to have been martyred in **62 A.D.**

- **The theme of this book**
is stated at the outset:
 - **James 1:4** (KJV)
***"That you may be
perfect and entire,
lacking in nothing."***
 - ***That you may be
fully and perfectly developed
*without any defects.****
(James 1:4)
(Goodspeed New Testament)

In this chapter, the following requirements for those who would be complete are advocated:

(1) Be joyful in trials

(James 1:2-4)

(2) In life's uncertainties,

Pray in faith without doubting

(James 1:5-8);

(3) Treat rich and poor alike.

(James 1:9-11)

**(4) God is not to be blamed
for temptations.**
(James 1:13)

**(5) Anger and wrath
are to be suppressed**
(James 1:19-20)

(6) Hear and Do God's word
(James 1:21-27).

- **The best tests**
of Christian maturity
is tribulation.
- When God's people
go through personal trials,
they discover
what kind of faith
they really possess.

- **Trials** not only reveal our faith;

- They also

develop our faith

and

Christian character.

- James is telling us to expect adversity as the rule,
- Rather than the exception.
 - He does not say,
if
you fall into
all sorts of trials,”
 - But rather
“when you
fall into
all sorts of trials.”

- **Peter likewise informs us**
that suffering
should not surprise us
(**1 Peter 4:12**).
- Adversity need not be sought;
it will surely come our way.
 - He says that
we will
“fall into”
all sorts or trials,
 - Not that you need
go looking for them.

- Second,
James informs us
that there will be
“all sorts of trials”
(verse 2).

- There are
different forms of
adversity.

- **It may be:**
- Financially,
 - Some physical malady,
- Parents agonize over their children,
- And children agonize over their parents.
 - Trials may come from one's boss,
 - Or from one's employees.
 - Trials come in various shapes and sizes, but they all are **a form of adversity.**

- **Third**,

James instructs us that
when we encounter
these trials,
we are to

rejoice in them.

(James 1:2)

- Knowing that God has allowed them into our lives as a part of His **sanctifying process.**
- These trials, James writes, **are a testing of our faith.**
 - Adversity tests the **strength of our faith:**

- Proverbs 24:10 (KJV)

*If you faint
in the
day of adversity,
your strength
is small.*

- Step into the time tunnel with me and let's travel together back to the land of Uz
 - Uz had a citizen who had the respect of everyone, because he was:
 - **Blameless,**
 - **Upright,**
 - **God-fearing,**
 - **And clean living.**

- He had:
 - 10 children,
 - Lots of livestock,
 - Plenty of land,
 - A houseful of servants,
- And a substantial stack of cash.
- No one would deny that he was
“*the greatest of all the men
of the east*”
(**Job 1:3**).

- His name was Job,
a synonym for integrity and godliness.
- Within a matter of hours
he was,
 - “***A wretched soul,
bruised with adversity.***”¹
as Shakespeare would say.

- **Without announcement,**
adversity fell upon Job
like an avalanche.
- He lost everything.
- Including all **10 children.**
- Soon thereafter he
lost his health.

- The book that bears his name **records his attitude:**

- ***“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked I shall return there.
The LORD gave and the LORD
has taken away.***

Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

(Job 1:21)

- Following this incredible statement, **God added:**

- ***Through all this
Job
did not sin
nor did he
blame God.
(Job 1:22)***

- As yourself:
“How in the world
could Job
so calmly handle
these trials?
- Trials mixed with
unbelievable grief?

- **The logical questions are:**
 - Why didn't he blame God?
 - How could he keep from it?
- What kept him from bitterness?
- He had done nothing wrong.
 - May I suggest **three basic answers?**

- **First**,
Job claimed
God's loving sovereignty.

The LORD gives,
and the LORD takes away.
May the name of the LORD
be blessed!”
(**Job 1:21**).

- In his own words he stated such:
“***Shall we indeed accept
good from God
and not
accept adversity?***”
(**Job 2:10**)

- Sadly,
not everyone
will understand.

- What was it Job's wife said:

- Job 2:9

Then his wife said to him,
***"Are you still persisting
in your blamelessness?
Curse God and die."***

(Lexham English Bible)

- But Job looked up and not down.
- Recognizing his Lord's right to rule over his life.

- **Second**, Job counted on God's promise of resurrection.
- Do you remember his **immortal words:**

***“I know that my
Redeemer lives,
And at the last . . .
. . . I shall see God.”***
(Job 19:25-26)

- **Job looked ahead trusting his Lord.**
 - Knowing that
“hope does not disappoint”
(Romans 5:5),
 - Job endured today by envisioning tomorrow.
 - **Abraham said:**
Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?
(Genesis 18:25)

- Third,

Job confessed

his own lack of understanding.

- What a relief that brings
into our lives!

- He didn't feel obligated
to explain why.

- **Listen to his honest admission:**

- **Job 42:1** Then Job answered the LORD,
and said,
- **42:2** I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours
can be held back.
 - **42:3** Who is this that
hides counsel without knowledge?
therefore have I uttered
that which I understood not,
things too wonderful for me,
which I knew not. (Job 42:24)

- Job looked within,
confessing his inability
to put it all together.
 - He rested his
not knowing with God,
- **Not feeling forced to answer why.**
 - Perhaps you are beginning
to get bruised by life.
 - Or maybe the avalanche
has already fallen.

- Maybe the adversity seems thousands of miles away . . .
 - As remote as the land of Uz.
- That's the way Job felt a few minutes before he lost it all.

- James says that **if you are having difficulty** understanding that then do what?

- **James 1:5**

***If any of you lack wisdom,
let him ask of God,
that gives to all men liberally,
and it shall be given him.***

- Wisdom has **a simple definition:**

*Looking at life
from God's
point of view.*

- If we could see life as God sees it, we'd be able to see through problems

- But, You and I are not God.

- Wouldn't you like to see your problems from God's point of view?

- You can!

- Through the lens of His Word!

- More often than not, **the book of Proverbs** offers a good starting place.
 - This eye-opening Old Testament book teaches us that wisdom **is available.**

An ancient Greek maxim states:

“The knowledge of
ignorance
is the beginning of
knowledge.”

- ***Wisdom shouts in the street,
She cries out
in the public square.***
(**Proverbs 1:20**)

- **Wisdom is knocking**
at your door, right now!

- **However, wisdom won't barge in.**
 - It stands within reach,
but you can choose
to keep it at arm's length.

- **Wisdom can be spurned.**
 - **Like a jilted lover,**
lady wisdom weeps:
 - ***"I called you so often,
but you wouldn't come.
I reached out to you,
but no one paid attention."***
(Job 1:24)

- Our problem is not
the availability of wisdom;
- It's our lack of passion for it.
 - Remember impetuous
Samson,
- The He-man with a She-weakness?
 - He spurned wisdom's resistance
to Delilah's seductions,
and disaster came.
 - Reject wisdom and
*"calamity overtakes you
like a storm"*
(**Proverbs 1:27**).

- Solomon initially and passionately pursued wisdom.
- When God invited the young king to ask for anything he wished, Solomon requested
 - "*an understanding heart to know the difference between right and wrong*"
(**1 Kings 3:9**).
- God honored his request and gave him
 - "*a wise and understanding heart*"
(**1 Kings 3:12**).

- God still doles out a generous supply of wisdom to people with a passion for it.
- **But you must ask for it.**
(James 1:5)
- Don't let your passion fade!
 - Why?
 - Just ask Solomon.

- True wisdom
originates from outside
our rashly impulsive natures.

- Wisdom comes from
God Himself

- Through His Word .

- To where we live.

- Need wisdom,
do you?

- It is the kind of wisdom which God alone possesses.

- And which He promises to give to those who ask for it.

- And it is in His **book of wisdom.**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
in all wisdom;
(Colossians 3:16)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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