

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **James 2:1-7.**

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. [2] For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, [3] and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," [4] have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? [5] Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose 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. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? [7] Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

B. James has just given the brethren some strong medicine about being doers of the word.

C. In James, chapter 2, we see an opportunity to put that faith in action.

D. "The way we behave toward people is the way we believe about God!" (1Jn. 4:20).

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

II. DO NOT SHOW PARTIALITY... BECAUSE OF CHRIST (Jas. 2:1-4).

A. To have faith in X, means to have a faith that does not show favoritism.

B. Jesus was not a respecter of persons. The woman at the well was not a Samaritan, but one who need some living water (see Jn. 4:7-14).

C. Jesus said, "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a righteous judgment" (Jn. 7:24).

D. The way to judge someone is really quite simple:

1. If a person is a Xian--we accept them because X lives in them.

2. If a person is not a Xian--we receive them because X died for them.

III. DO NOT SHOW PARTIALITY... BECAUSE OF GRACE (Jas. 2:5-7).

A. When it comes to our standing in the kingdom, God ignores some things we don't ignore:

1. God ignores our gender (Gal. 3:26-28).

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. God ignores our national (Jew/Gentile) differences (Ac. 10:34,35; see Gal. 3:26-28).

And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality, [35] but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.

3. God ignores our social and intellectual differences (1Cor. 1:26).

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

B. Paul makes it very clear that God chooses those things that mankind deem powerful and right so that He will be glorified (see 1Corinthians 1:26-31).

IV. DO NOT SHOW PARTIALITY... BECAUSE OF THE WORD (Jas. 2:8-11).

A. James uses an OT example to prove his point about being prejudiced and show partiality. When we show partiality towards someone we will begin to violate the word of God.

B. Love is the fulfillment of the law. To love means you will not break any of the laws (Rom. 13:9,10).

For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." [10] Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of *the* law.

C. The word of God instructs on how to treat our neighbor--with love not partiality.

