

## Lecture 10 – Conclusion of Hebrews; Introduction to James

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. James 1:2-8*

### Key Terms

Luther & James, tenor of James, author of James

### Lecture Objectives

- Locate and describe the place of James as it relates to the rest of the canon
- Describe the tumultuous history of James in discussions of its canonicity
- Identify the author of James, highlighting reasons for this identification

### Preliminary Questions

- What has been your experience with the book of James? Have you found it difficult to coordinate James with Paul regarding justification? How have you handled this tension?

### Conclusion of Hebrews

#### I. Review

- A. Hebrews perspective on faith
- B. The race
  1. The runners
  2. The witnesses

#### II. The Race Described

- A. Laying aside the encumbrance of sin
- B. Run the race marked out
- C. Run with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and perfecter of our faith

#### III. How to persevere to the end (12:4ff)

- A. Trials are evidence of God's discipline to drive us to greater strength
- B. Final points of chapter 12
  1. Seek peace with all
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.

#### IV. General counsel for living well (chapter 13)

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction to James

#### I. James in History of Christian Thought

- A. Reception of James
- B. Criticism of James (Luther, Table Talk, Works, 54:424-425)

- 1. Contains all but nothing of Christ; dissonant with rest of the apostolic message
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Written by a non-apostle
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Disorderly, flitting from one topic to next without internal connection
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Not immediately respected by early church as canonical
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

II. Sermonic Tenor or Atmosphere of James

A. Direct address:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Rhetorical devices:

- 1. Rhetorical questions
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Imaginary objections raised and answered
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Illustrations: horses, springs, boats, fire, mirror, trading, farm work, flowers, mist, travel.
- 4. Use of paradoxical language
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

III. Author: James Brother of Jesus

A. Acts 15 and James:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Similar interests in James and church leader in Acts 15, 21

- 1. Passion for law of Moses
- 2. Knowledge of the Jewish people
- 3. Acts 15 and James 3 both show concerns of a peacemaker
- 4. Knowledge of Jewish traditions and of life in Palestine
- 5. Tradition says Elijah prayed
- 6. Spring and autumn rains
- 7. Pride in monotheism.
- 8. Depicts synagogue worship

C. Sketch of the author

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_