

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

James 2 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

James 2

James 2:1

My brothers and sisters, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.

† Faith in Christ leaves no room for partiality. The glory of the Lord is incompatible with human prejudice.

† Leviticus 19:15 commanded judges not to show partiality to the poor or the rich, a principle James applies to the church.

James 2:2-4

For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and is dressed in bright clothes, and a poor man in dirty clothes also comes in, and you pay special attention to the one wearing the bright 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," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

† Favoritism toward the rich contradicts the character of God. The church must not become like the world where wealth buys honor.

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.8.8, shows how the rich and powerful corrupted justice in Jerusalem. James warns believers not to imitate such evil.

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters: did God not choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

† God's choice turns the world upside down. The poor often show greater faith because they rely fully on Him.

† Luke 6:20, Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

James 2:6-7

But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the good name by which you have been called?

† The rich persecuted the believers, yet the church was tempted to honor them. This exposed their hypocrisy.

† Tacitus, Histories 5.9, notes how wealthy elites mocked and oppressed Christians.

James 2:8-9

If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the Law as violators.

† The royal law is love, which sums up the whole. Favoritism breaks that law and is sin.

† Galatians 5:14 confirms the law is fulfilled in "love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:10-11

For whoever keeps the whole Law, yet stumbles in one point, has become guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do murder, you have become a violator of the Law.

† The law is one unified whole. Breaking one part breaks the entire law.

† Philo, On the Decalogue 65, taught that the Ten Commandments are bound together like parts of one body.

James 2:12-13

So speak, and so act, as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

† Believers live under the law of freedom, not the bondage of the old system. Mercy is the standard. Without mercy, one faces merciless judgment.

† Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

James 2:14

What use is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

† Faith without action is empty profession. The question is rhetorical, such faith cannot save.

James 2:15-17

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? In the same way, faith also, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

† Faith without works is dead because it refuses to act in love. Words without deeds are worthless.

† Sirach 4:1-4 warns against refusing aid to the poor, aligning with James' teaching.

James 2:18-19

But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works, show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well, the demons also believe, and shudder.

† True faith is visible through works. Mere belief, even in sound doctrine, is insufficient, as demons also believe and tremble.

James 2:20-24

But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is useless? Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected, and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

† Abraham's faith was proven genuine by his works. Works perfect and complete faith, they are the outward demonstration

of trust.

† Josephus, Antiquities 1.13.3, recounts Abraham's offering of Isaac as the supreme act of faith.

James 2:25

In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

† Rahab's faith was shown by action, protecting God's people at risk to herself.

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 12, praises Rahab as a model of faith proven by works.

James 2:26

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

† Faith without works is a corpse, lifeless and powerless. Works are the breath that prove faith alive.

Application for us today

† Faith and works cannot be separated. True faith is proven in love, mercy, and obedience.

† The temptation to show favoritism to the rich still exists, but the gospel demands honor for the poor and powerless.

† Doctrine alone is not enough, living faith acts.

† The law of freedom calls for mercy, compassion, and visible righteousness.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Leviticus 19:15 - law against partiality

† Isaiah 40:6-8 - grass withers, human glory fades

- † Matthew 5:7 - mercy receives mercy
- † Luke 6:20 - blessed are the poor
- † Galatians 5:14 - love fulfills the law
- † Sirach 4:1-4 - do not refuse aid to the poor
- † Philo, On the Decalogue 65 - law as unified whole
- † Josephus, Antiquities 1.13.3 - Abraham's supreme faith
- † Josephus, Antiquities 20.8.8 - corruption of justice by the rich
- † Tacitus, Histories 5.9 - wealthy elites oppressing Christians
- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 12 - Rahab's faith in action

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.