

New Testament Foundations: Session Eight

James: The Letter of True Religion

Authorship

1. James was the half-brother of Jesus. He was not a _____ during the earthly ministry of Jesus (John 7:5), but was converted by a post-resurrection visitation from the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:7) He later became an apostle in the early church. (Galatians 1:19)
2. The Jewish historian Josephus records that he was brought by the Sadducees before the _____ in 62 AD and stoned as a transgressor of the Law.
3. Internal evidence and church tradition dates the letter in the mid to late _____, making it one of the earliest New Testament documents.
4. The book of James is an _____ letter written to Jewish believers scattered throughout the Roman Empire. (James 1:1)
5. James was one of the last books _____ into the canon.

Style

1. His writing is _____.
 - The tone of the epistle is the most authoritative in the New Testament with 54 _____ in 108 verses.
2. His writing is _____ and direct.
 - James avoids _____ or mystical meanings and presents plain, everyday concerns in a straightforward manner.
3. His writing is _____.
 - James' Greek is better than nearly all the other New Testament writers, possibly because he used an amanuensis. He uses very striking and visual metaphors to convey his thoughts (1:6, 11; 3:3, 11; 4:14; 5:7).

Themes

1. The Epistle of James is the most _____ writing in the New Testament.
 - There are more parallels to the Sermon on the Mount in this epistle than can be found anywhere else in the New Testament.
2. The epistle is interested in _____ more than in creed. It has very little formulated theology, less than any other epistle in the New Testament; but it insists upon practical morality throughout.
3. The theme of the book is that true religion must manifest itself in works which are _____ to those of the world.