

## Hamilton Road Baptist Church - House Group Notes

20<sup>th</sup> May 2011

### Theme

How can the Word of God bear fruit in my life?

### Introduction

*Author might be James the son of Zebedee, James the brother of Christ or even the other apostle called James. His aim is to present the practical characteristics of the Christian life. It is not works to procure salvation but actions to demonstrate salvation. How the Christian life is to be lived. As far as James is concerned the real Christian – “the genuine article” - should have a set of hallmarks that people can see.*

*He settles for three such hallmarks which he introduces in chapter 1. “If anyone thinks he is religious if he does not control his tongue, his religion is worthless and he deceives himself. What God the father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world” v 26-27. The introduction and conclusion each deal with the themes of perseverance and prayer.*

### Bible reading

Chapter 1:19 – 2:13 (read 3 times)

1. Observation – after first reading note all the key things you have observed.
2. Interpretation – second reading. Note the key messages James is conveying to his readers.
3. Application – third reading. Note anything that is relevant to your own situation, the situation of your family, the situation of the church or the situation in society at large.

### Discussion starters

1. In your daily life, are you quicker at listening to God’s Word for answers or are you quicker to speak out and become angry? (James 1:19)

2. What causes a Christian to become angry? What does the Bible have to say about anger? (Eph. 4:26; Cpl. 3:8; Prov. 29:11; Rom. 12:19-20)

3. What should we get rid of in our lives and hearts and what should we accept in our hearts? (James 1:21)

4. What are the benefits in listening to sermons and reading God's Word? And is this enough? (James 1:22-24)

5. How closely are we to study God's Word? (James 1:25a) Practically what is the benefit for the Christian? (James 1:25b; Psa. 119:45; John 8:31b-32)

6. Why is James so obsessed with the Christian tongue? (James 1:19; 2:12; 3:1-3; 3:14-18; 4:11-12) What is our speech and indicator of? (Mtt. 12:34b)

7. How can we perform these acts of service which James is talking about in our world? (James 1:26-27; 1 John 3:18-19; Psa. 63:5)

8. How could discrimination manifest itself in our worship services and daily life? (James 2:1-4)

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