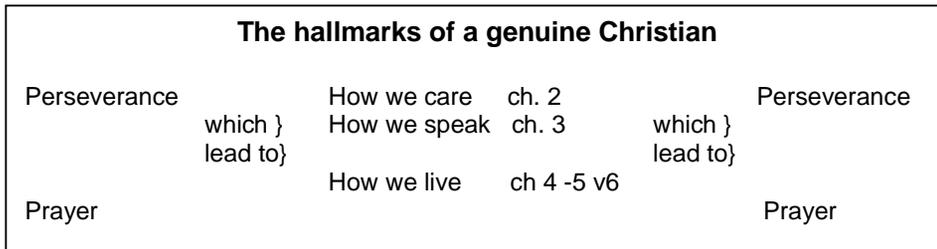


Hamilton Road Baptist Church
House Group Notes
Wednesday 4th May 2011

Theme: Trials and temptations - James chapter 1 v 1-18

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. “Does anyone think 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 or orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world” v 26/27. Introduction and conclusion each deal with the themes of perseverance and prayer. Plan of letter look like:



Bible reading: Chapter 1 verses 1-18 (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. (You do not have to use all or any of these. Indeed fee free to use different questions altogether!)

- 1 What are the implications of James' hallmarks of a genuine Christian?(v 26/27).
- 2 What sorts of things do you think James has in mind when he talks about trials?
- 3 What objectives does God have in allowing us to undergo trials (v 4 and v 12). Discuss and define the words you use. How can this be used to facing trials with joy?
- 4 What does James say about prayer?
- 5 In practice how can we apply what he says?
- 6 James uses two contrasting situations to illustrate how people should view life whether they are rich or poor. How can/should we be applying this in practice?
- 7 Where does temptation start? Plot its progress as James describes it using a practical example e.g. theft, infidelity, gossip
- 8 How is temptation to be resisted?
- 9 Is the promise of a “crown” in the future a real incentive to you? If not what has gone wrong?
- 10 What are the key things you learn about God in this passage?