

- VIII. Relationship with God 4:1-10
- IX. The one True Judge 4:11-12
- X. False Confidence 4:13-17
- XI. Warning to the Rich 5:1-6
- XII. Perseverance in the Lord 5:7-11
- XIII. Oaths and Prayers 5:12-18
- XIV. Rescuing the sinning brother 5:19-20

#### History of Redemption:

James says little about the central themes of Christian teaching. The emphasis in James falls instead on the practical aspects of Christianity.

There are five theological themes in James: 1) trials or temptations, 2) the law 3) faith and works 4) wisdom, and 5) the last things (eschatology). When James discusses temptation he seems to do so from a Jewish perspective. The rabbis taught that the evil inclination in man (created, as were all things, by God) was responsible for his own temptation and response to it

The law is a "perfect law that gives freedom" (1:25). It is a law for those who have been set free and a law which in turn sets free those who place themselves under it. Law is intimately connected with Christian ethics (2:8-13; 4:11-12). Men's actions reveal their attitude toward and understanding of the law (4:11).

Faith is the foundation of the Christian life (1:3; 2:5). It is not mere assent to God's existence (2:19) but belief in his power, goodness, and benevolence (1:6, 13). In his discussion of faith and works, "works" signifies what Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit. Faith has Jesus as its object and changed lives as its result.

James' understanding of wisdom is much like that found in Proverbs--wisdom as a practical quality, not a philosophical one (2:13, 17, 18). It is a gift from God and should, therefore, be requested in prayer (1:5).

The major eschatological teaching of James is that of judgment. Judgment will be based on works (2:12-13) and on privilege (3:1), another aspect of works: the works of the privileged will be judged more harshly. Character is also a basis of judgment--a person's character will be revealed by his actions (5:9). This verse introduces the Second Coming, the motivation for perseverance in living the Christian life as outlined in James.