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Book of James

By Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Begin 1-3-2016

THEME: GENUINE FAITH

Lesson 1 – Genuine Faith Brings Joy – James 1:1-12

I. INTRODUCTION

A. James is, no doubt, the brother of Jesus.

In the historical books of the New Testament we read of James the son of Zebedee, one of the twelve apostles of our Lord, who very early suffered martyrdom (Acts xii); of James the son of Alpheus, and of James the brother of our Lord. The last two are supposed by many to be identical, and it is not easy, either from the statements of Scripture or the testimony of the early ecclesiastical historians, to decide positively whether they are so or not. From the best examination which I have been able to make, it is my opinion that James the brother of the Lord is a different person from James the son of Alpheus

. . . mentioned in Acts xii. 17, xv. 13, xxi. 18, Gal. ii. 9, Matt. Xiii. 55, Mark vi. 3; and it was he who presided so long and so honorably over the church at Jerusalem, till he met with violent death at the hands of a mob as related by Josephus (Antiq. xx. 8: 1) and by Eusebius (E.H. ii. 23); and that this is the James who wrote the epistle. (*Origin And History of the Books of the Bible*, By Prof. C. E. Stowe, D. D., Hartford Publishing Company, Harford, Conn. 1868).

B. He was a main character in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15).

C. He wrote to the twelve tribes scattered abroad. These were Jews who were scattered due to the persecution recorded in the book of Acts.

1. Acts 8:1 *And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

D. The book was written sometime between 40 - 70 AD.

II. THE COUNTING OF ALL JOY (1:1-2)

A. We are not to count it joy for the temptations of Satan, because his temptations can never bring joy but sorrow, heartache, confusion, and a prone to sin.

B. But these trials are given (or allowed) to us by God himself.

C. These trials (temptations) are given to us to strengthen us and to bring glory to God.

D. Therefore, we should count it all joy to be able to suffer for Christ's sake.

1. Acts 5:41 *And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*

E. These temptations (trials) are *manifold*, which means they are of different sorts and kinds. When we study the life of the Apostle Paul, we understand that his trials were many and various.

1. 2 Corinthians 11:25 *Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*

