

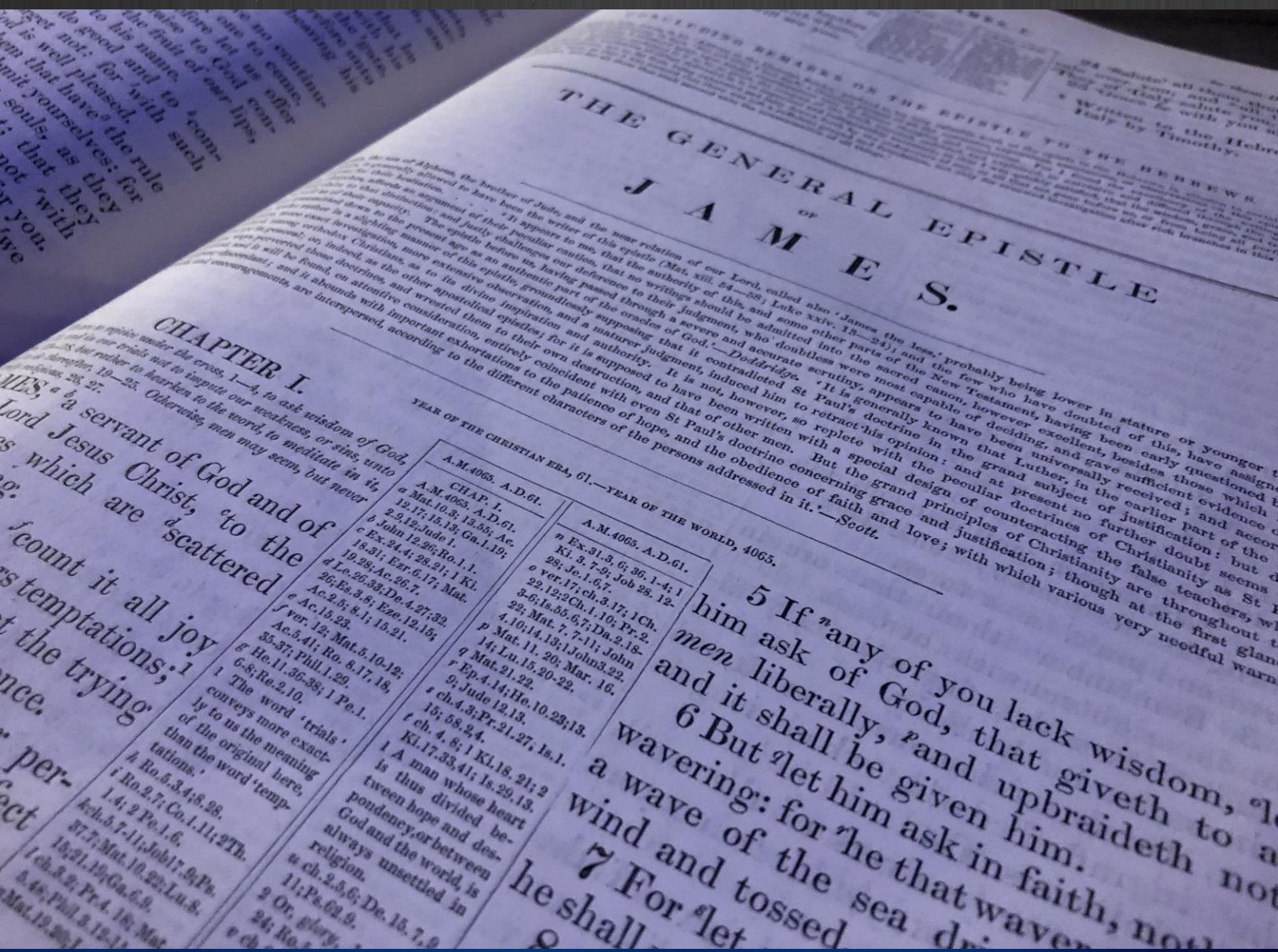
The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 1

Vs 1-15



New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

7 Churches

Pastoral

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

"Prison Epistles"

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

Hebrew-Christian Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3 John

Jude

'James'

- Jacobos in Greek;
- Jacques in French;
- Iago in Italian;
- Diego in Spanish;
- Ya'kov in Hebrew;
 - = the supplanter; heel-catcher; tripper-up
 - Hosea 12:3

'James'

- 5 James' mentioned in the new testament
 - James, the son of Zebedee; brother of John the beloved disciple.
 - Called to be a follower early (Mark 1:19).
 - Became, with his brother John and Peter, one of the insiders. (Mark 5:37; 9:2; 10:35; 14:33).
 - Slain by Herod very soon after Pentecost.

‘James’

- 5 James’ mentioned in the new testament
 - James, the son Alpheus, brother of Judas (not Iscariot).
 - Only in lists and (possibly) in Mark 15:40 as “James the Younger” or “Lesser”;
 - simply ‘James’ in the parallel passage in Matthew 27:56).

'James'

- 5 James' mentioned in the new testament
 - James, the father of Judas, not Iscariot (see John 14:22), identified as one of the twelve in Luke 6:16 (and in Acts 1:13) and is probably the same as Thaddaeus in Matthew 10:3 and Mark 3:18.

'James'

- 5 James' mentioned in the new testament
 - James, the brother of our Lord.
 - Considered by the early church as a son of Mary and Joseph.
 - Jerome, Augustine, et al.
 - See also Matthew 12:46, 47; 13:55; Mark 3:31, 32; Luke 8:19, 20; 1 Cor 9:5.
 - Unbeliever before the resurrection: John 7:5.
 - The Lord specifically appeared to James: 1 Cor 15:7; thus Gal 1:19. following which he became a believer!

'James'

- 5 James' mentioned in the new testament
 - Prominent as outstanding leader in the Jerusalem Church as seen in Acts 15 / Gal 2:9
 - He was married (1 Cor 9:5)
 - When Peter was released from prison he instructed them to tell James (Acts 12:17)
 - Paul reported to him upon arrival (Acts 21:17-26)
 - His name was used by the Judaizers saying they had 'come from James' (Gal 2:12).
 - Note that he had already disavowed having authorised them to use his name as an endorsement of their legal teachings (Acts 15:24)

Time of Writing?

- Written within 10 years of the Resurrection
- c.40 A.D

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- “He was notable as a very *Jewish* Christian, extremely strict in lifestyle” - William MacDonald
- Many parallels with Matthews's gospel with respect to themes:

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

• Subject	James	Parallel in Matthew
• Adversity	1:2, 12; 5:10	5:10–12
• Prayer	1:5; 4:3; 5:13–18	6:6–13; 7:7–12
• The Single Eye	1:8; 4:8	6:22, 23
• Wealth	1:10, 11; 2:6, 7	6:19–21, 23–34
• Wrath	1:19, 20; 4:1	5:22
• The Law	1:25; 2:1, 12, 13	5:17–44
• Mere Profession	1:26, 27	6:1–18
• The Royal Law	2:8	7:12

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

• Subject	James	Parallel in Matthew
• Mercy	2:13	5:7
• Faith and Works	2:14–26	7:15–27
• Root and Fruit	3:11, 12	7:16–20
• True Wisdom	3:13	7:24
• The Peacemaker	3:17, 18	5:9
• Judging Others	4:11, 12	7:1–5
• Rusted Treasures	5:2	6:19
• Oaths	5:12	5:33–37

Overview of the Epistle

- James shows the importance of
 - Conduct over Creed
 - Behaviour over Belief
 - Deed over Doctrine
- James' Epistle is intensely practical for the Christian growing in knowledge & grace
- It is a fitting follow-on from Hebrews which gives the 'why?' of Christian living...
- James gives us the 'how'

Overview of the Epistle

- Endurance of Faith
 - Outward Trials & Inward Temptations 1:2-18
- Tests of the Genuineness of Faith
 - Our Response to the Word of God 1:19-27
 - Response to social distinctions 2:1-13
 - Evidence of good works to accompany Faith 2:14-26
 - The importance of self-control for a believer 3:1-18
 - Our relationship to the World 4:1-5:12
 - The foundation of prayer for a believer 5:12-18

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- James used nature to illustrate spiritual truth thirty times in five short chapters.
- There are frequent references to the law in this Letter. It is called “the perfect law” (1:25), “the royal law” (2:8), and “the law of liberty” (2:12).
 - James does not teach that his readers are under law for salvation or as a rule of life.
 - Rather, portions of the law are cited as instruction in righteousness for those who are under grace.

Yakov's Letter to the 12 Tribes

- Key words: *Brethren* x 15
- . *Faith* x 15
- . *Works* x 13
- . *Wisdom* x 4
- The most authoritarian letter in the NT?
- James issues instructions more profusely than any of the other writers.
- In the 108 verses, there are 54 commands

Jesus' Earthly Family

Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?

Matthew 13:55-56

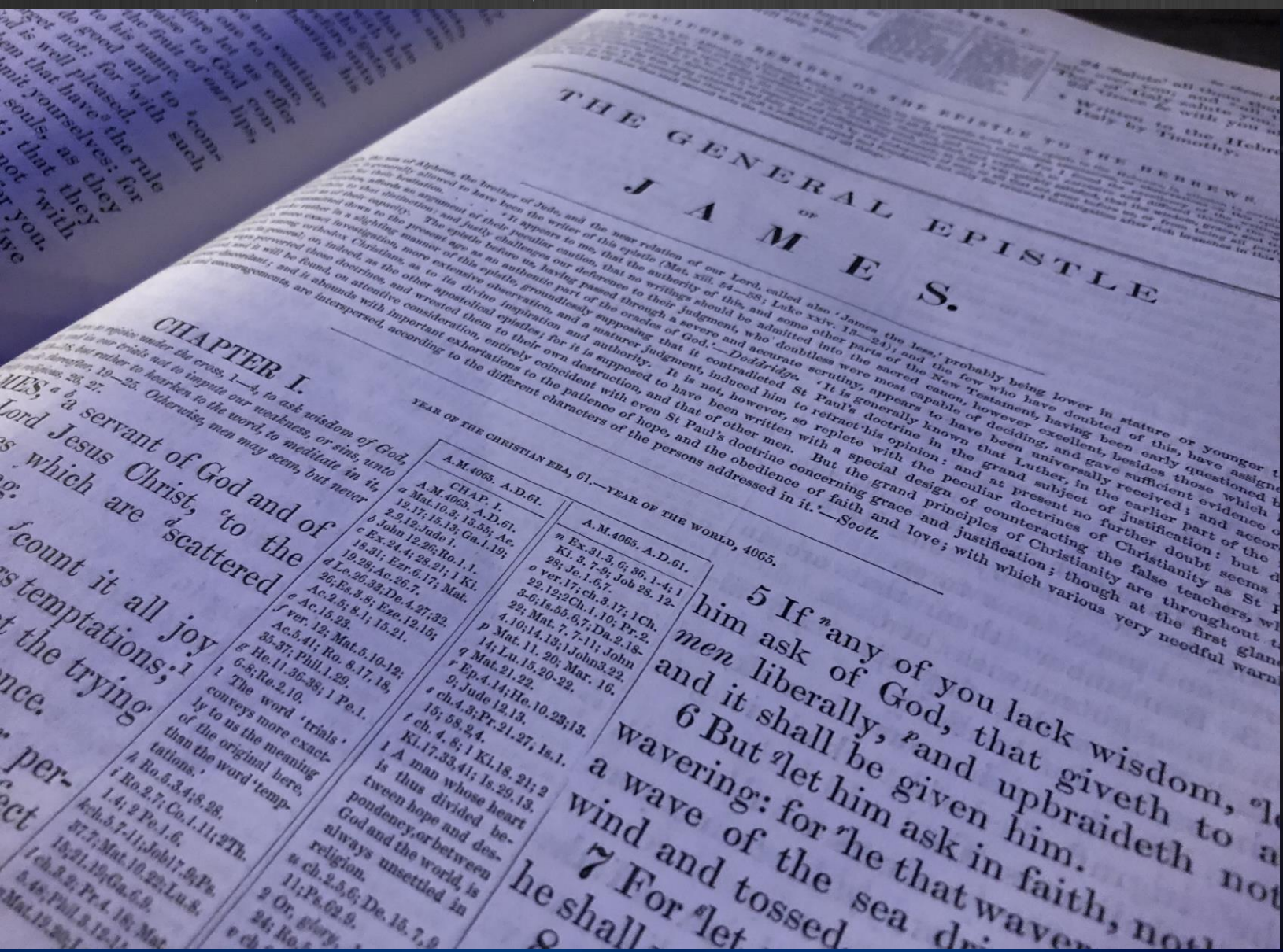
- At least a family of 7 children
 - 4 brothers & 2 sisters
 - James always mentioned first indicating he was the eldest (after Jesus)

The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 1



Chapter 1

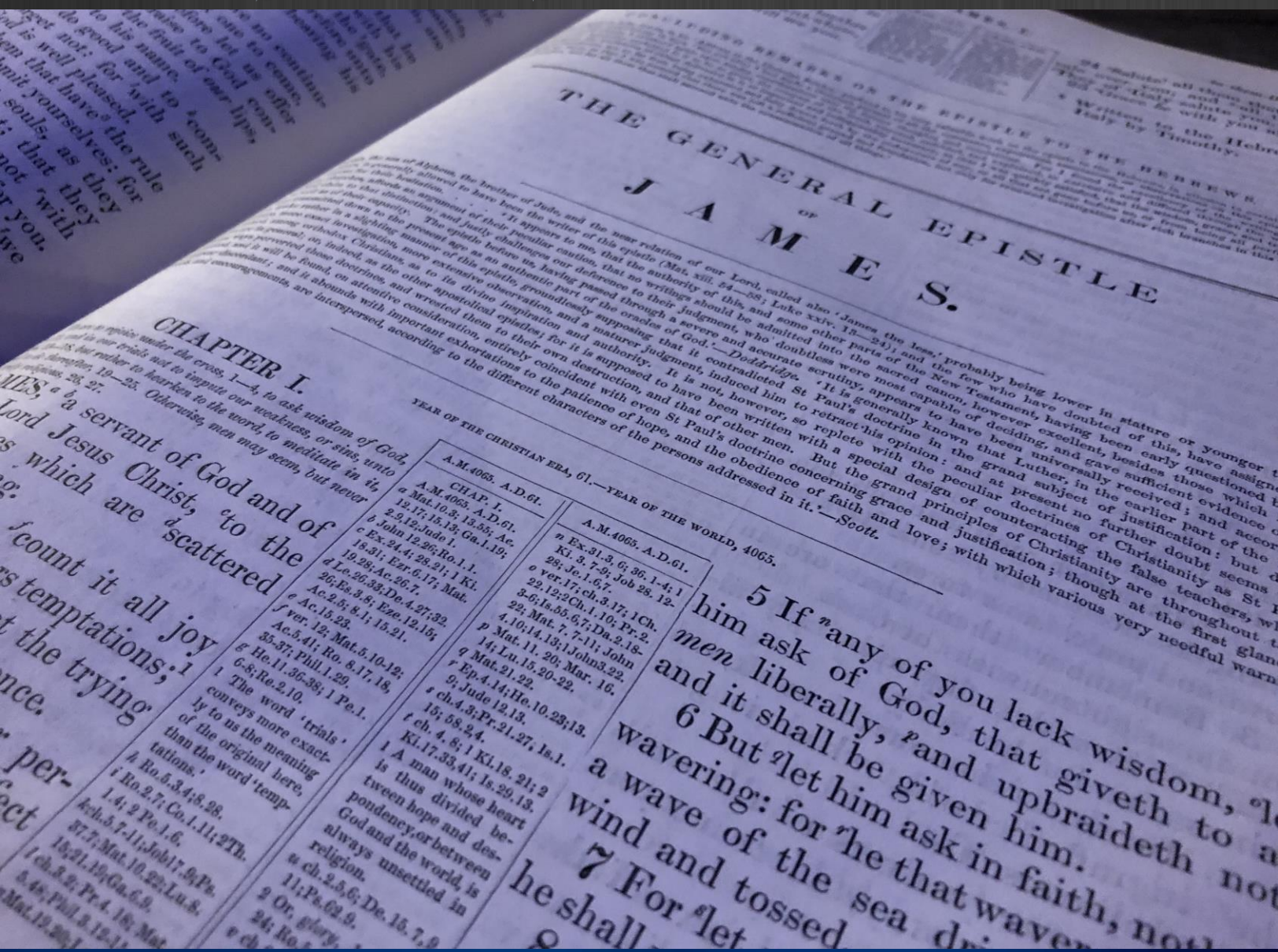
- Introduction 1:1
- Have Joy in trials 1:2-3
- Be single minded 1:5-8
- Be content 1:9-11
- Endure temptation 1:12-21
- Be doers not just hearers 1:22-27

The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 1



The Five Crowns

Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Cor 5:10 / Rom 14:10

- Award ceremony for the saints
- Sin is not part of the equation
- How we have lived as Christians will be the critical issue
- Our deeds will be judged (good or bad)
- Salvation is assured
- Rewards are not
- Where our treasure has been will be the key

Heavenly Reward

⁸ Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

2 John 8

Heavenly Reward

²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Cor 9:26-27

- Castaway – Gr. *adokimos*
- rejected, reprobate, having nothing

Our Rewards?

Crowns:

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

The Crown of Incorruption

²⁴ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.



1 Cor 9:24-25

Isthmian Games (Isthmus
of Corinth)

The Crown of Incorruption

²⁴ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Cor 9:24-25

Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

The Crown of Life

I2 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

I3 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:13

Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

The Crown of Rejoicing

¹⁹ For *what* is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

²⁰ For ye are our glory and joy.

1 Thes 2:19-20

- The joy of seeing the lost found
- Luke 15:7 – “joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents”

Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

The Crown of Glory

- 1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:*
- 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*
- 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*
- 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

1 Peter 5:1-4

Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

The Crown of Righteousness

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

What do we do with our Crowns?

- Spend eternity bragging about how well we've done?

Before the throne...

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne,

Revelation 4:9-10

I2 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

I3 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

I4 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

What do we do with our Crowns?

- Cast them before the throne

What Happens to the Crowns?

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:11-13

What Happens to the Crowns?

- We are rewarded with crowns
- We will cast our crowns before the throne
- Jesus will receive and wear the crowns we give Him

Significance?

- However great our reward, Jesus will receive the glory
- We will not be able to 'brag' throughout eternity
- Once the crowns are cast down we are all the same – sinners saved by grace
- This is our one opportunity to give something back to Jesus
- Today is our opportunity!

Significance?

- Representative of every time you wanted to quit the race
- Representative of every time you faced temptation
- Representative of every time you had the opportunity to talk to someone about Christ

*"Have you no wish for others to be saved?
Then you are not saved yourself.
Be sure of that." C.H.S*

Significance?

- Representative of every time you wanted to quit the race
- Representative of every time you faced temptation
- Representative of every time you had the opportunity to talk to someone about Christ
- Representative of your faithfulness in ministry
- Representative of your looking for his return

Our Response

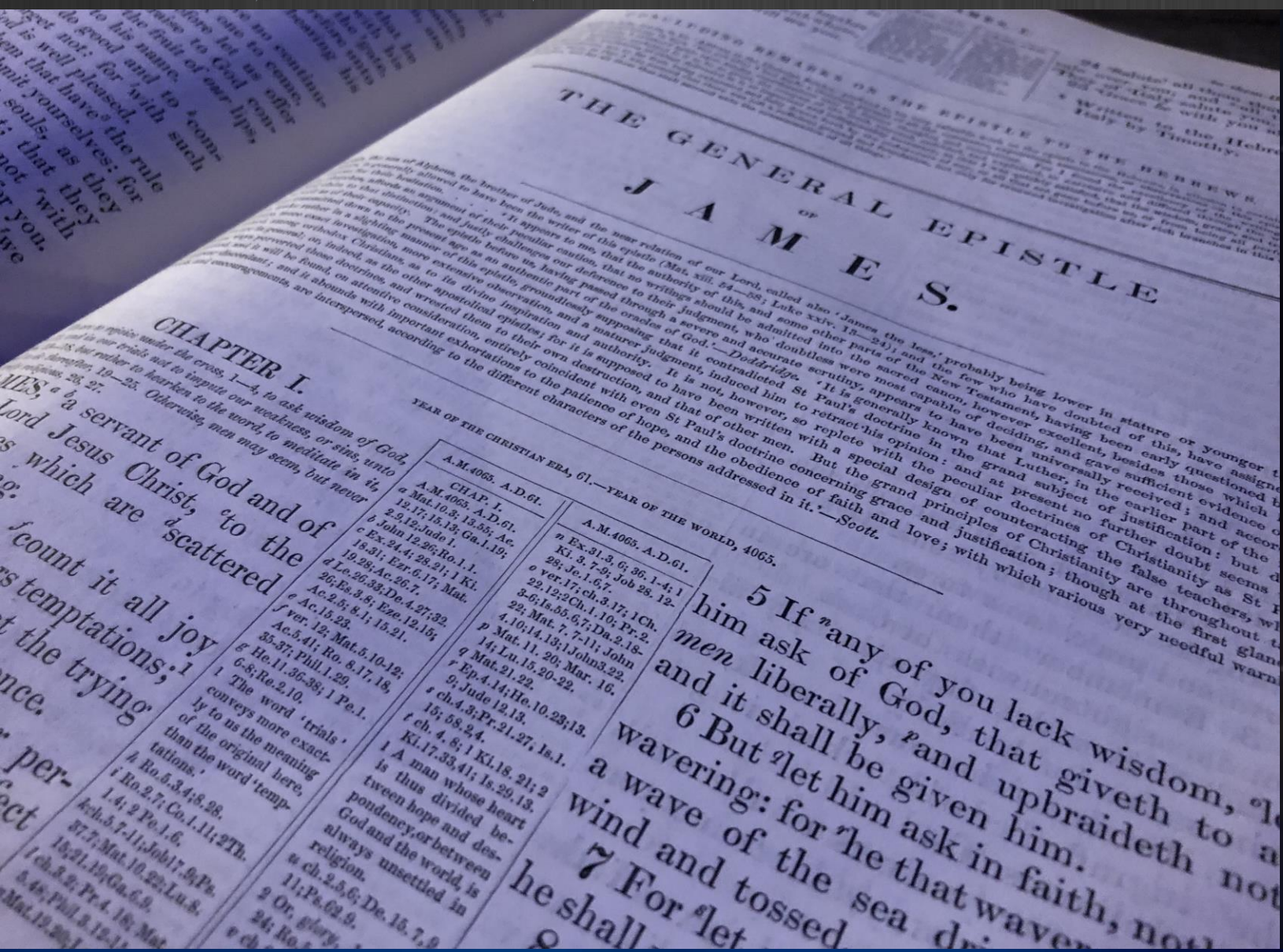
- The Crown of Incorruption
 - A disciplined Christian life, no compromise
- The Crown of Life
 - Overcoming temptation
- The Crown of Rejoicing
 - Winning souls for Christ
- The Crown of Glory
 - Faithful in ministry
- The Crown of Righteousness
 - Looking for His coming (Sanctified)

The Epistle of James

A verse by verse study...



Chapter 1



Temptations

- Temptations will come
- A blessing is promised if we endure them
- We are expected to endure them
- God is not the source of temptations (Isaiah 45:7)
 - so note that they are different from trials!
- Don't blame God for temptations
- The Devil is also not the primary source of temptations

Temptations

- Our hearts and minds are fertile soil where temptations can grow
- This is why what may be a temptation to one may not be to another
- We are commanded not to 'go astray' or 'wander'
- Temptations will result in death, progressively – starting as possibly innocuous

Temptations

- ‘Carried away’ and ‘enticed’ are hunting and fishing metaphors
- ‘Carried away’
 - To lure something out into the open
- ‘enticed’
 - The idea of bait (literally a trap to catch prey)
- Where does the bait come from?
- Our perception, our own lusts

Temptations

- Why is it tempting?
- Because we allow it to be enticing because we do not have the right view of it.
 - Consider a beautiful but deadly flower. Knowing it is deadly changes our perception of it, and it loses attraction
- Sin has distorted the good things that God has made so that we see them in a context that was never intended

Temptations

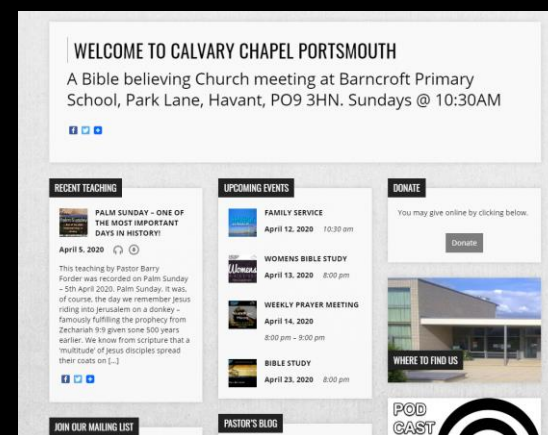
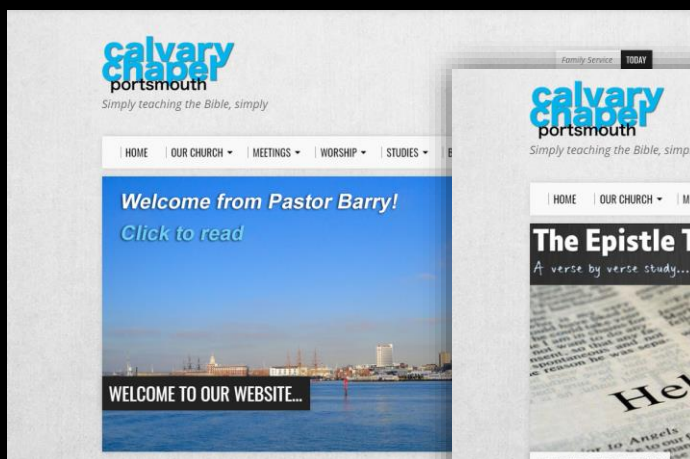
- Who is doing the luring? (your own heart?)
- Ultimately, this is all down to our own sinful nature
 - of ourselves we are powerless to overcome!
 - But in Christ we can do all things! Phil 4:13
- See Prov 6:20-29

How do we obtain victory?

- Don't be brought under the power of anything, by giving in to it, even if it's innocuous
- Always be mindful of God's design, anything outside will bring harm
- Remember that you are now part of Christ – anything you do will affect the body
- 'Unlawful intimate indulgence', in whatever form brings personal harm
- Maintain your relationship with Christ!



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