

James 2

King James Version (KJV)

2 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. (Be impartial, and teach all people who want to know. Treat all people equally)

²For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; (One looks good and well polished, the other does not)

³And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: (This means to show partiality or favoritism to some)

(God has no favorites. HE treats all people equally)

⁴Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? (To have favorites is to judge people. God is the judge, not us)

⁵Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (Faith in God is far more valuable than all the worldly riches you can acquire. You will inherit the love of God in Paradise)

(These people can also be the church of Smyrna and Philadelphia, in Revelation. They are rich in faith. They learned the Word of God and know who the Kenites are. They understand God's plan and how they play a part in it)

⁶But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? (Look around. The poor don't oppress you; the rich and powerful do. Yet people look up to them and admire these same oppressors)

NOTE: (To have worldly riches has no bearing on your heavenly riches. One has nothing to do with the other. Many poor people have great heavenly riches waiting for them. Many wealthy people today have no heavenly riches. They are wretches in God's eyes)

⁷ Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?
(They blaspheme against Christians and use their worldly power to work against them and to judge them)

(Muslims openly persecute and murder Christians in their countries. They think that that is what their god Allah wants them to do)

⁸ If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: (royal law = there is one King of kings. His name is Jesus Christ. All people are equal under the King. Be fair and equal with people, regardless of their worldly status)

⁹ But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. (Respect of persons - is to have favorites; to judge people unequally. That is a sin)

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (Keep all Ten Commandments)

¹¹ For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. (Do not kill = Do not commit murder – this is a bad translation)

(Follow all Ten Commandments that God gave us. If you break one of them; repent, change your ways and get back into God's graces)

¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. (The law of liberty is repentance and forgiveness – the covenant of Jesus Christ sets us free and keeps us that way)

(If we break one of the Ten Commandments, Jesus made it possible for us to repent and receive forgiveness)

¹³ For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. (If we show no mercy unto others, God will show no mercy unto us)

¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (We bring our good works with us when we die. Our good works in this life result in our rewards in the next)

¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (We are expected to help people, if we can. Just wishing them well won't help them)

(More importantly, we are expected to help them spiritually; if they ask to learn the Word of God; because we can always do that. Hearing the true Word of God will be scarce in the end days) Amos-8:11

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (However, faith alone is not the best. You also need to do good works. Love God and serve Him whenever possible)

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. (Our works establish and prove our faith. Our works reinforce and improve our faith)

¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (Satan and his fallen angels also know that there is only one God. They have the same faith that we do)

(The difference is that they work against God. We are supposed to work with God and for God; if expect to make the resurrection into the eternity)

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (You can believe, but if you do not have any good works, your faith will amount to nothing)

(Good works begin with learning the Word of God. Good works can be to become a good example of being a Christian to other people)

(It also means speaking up against sin, perversion and idolatry. Tolerance is not acceptance. Right is right and wrong is wrong. Don't persecute people who do wrong; but don't accept what they are doing either)

²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (God is not asking us to do what He asked of Abraham. HE is asking us to make a difference in peoples' lives in a positive way)

(The example in this verse just shows Abraham's great faith in God; and that he was willing to do what God asked)

²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? (perfect = mature) (This verse applies to the physical and to the spiritual context)

2Thesalonians-3:10 (If a brother won't work, don't feed him. But if a working brother needs help, help him)

²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. **Isaiah-41:8**

²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? (James was not a prophet. He was a Bible teacher, like Paul. He was wrong to call Rahab a harlot)

(Rahab believed in God. She helped the Israelites to take Jericho. She risked her life to do that. God made her a part of the lineage of Jesus as her reward because He loved her for what she did)

NOTES: (She was no harlot. She was a successful linen merchant. She had big stores of flax on her rooftop to make that linen. God never called her a harlot in any verse in the Bible. Men did)

(Jealous chauvinist men called her a harlot because she was more successful than they were. Merchants came to her house to buy her fine linen; not for prostitution)

Revelation-19:7-8 (Our fine linens in Paradise are woven from our good works in this life)

(I'm surprised that even James called her a harlot in this verse. He should have known better. No one is perfect. We must rightly divide God's Word to learn the truth. That means to understand who is saying what)

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (Rahab had faith and did good works for God)