

SESSION 8
JAMES 2.1-7

From considering the facets of true religion which embrace discretion in speech and a purity of heart derived from the indwelling Christ that brings glory to God through authentic worship of Him and service to others, James now exhorts us to consider the divisive problem of partiality in the church.

V 1 How would you define partiality?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit stirred James to exhort us regarding this issue?

What do you think is the root of partiality?

What do you think James means by "...holding the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory?"

Why do you think James is led to use this particular appellation of Jesus?

How would you define the glory of Jesus?

Ex 34.29-35

Ex 40.34

Jn 1.14

Mt 17.1-2

2 Cor 4.6

Shekinah - Heb=shakan = to dwell

We must understand and experience in Christ Jesus the fullness and true nature of the glory of God in order that partiality may not emerge in our midst to destroy the humble, gentle beauty of the fellowship we enjoy in our church. With partiality we act as if Jesus were no longer the glory of our church. Worldly wealth and accomplishment are spiritual rubbish in comparison to the glory that is Christ's alone, a glory that compels us to understand that the ground is truly level for all at the foot of the Cross.

Gal 3.28

V 2-3 What is really happening in the scenario James presents in these verses?

If you were the poor man, what would be your response?

V 4 What is James' indictment against the congregation when partiality is afoot?

distinction = Gr "diakrino" = doubt

What do you think is the significance of "...among yourselves."?

V 5 What is it about the poor that would cause James to make this statement?

1 Cor 1.26-28

Mt 19.23-24

V 6a Now what is the indictment James is making against the partiality - practicing congregation?

V 6b-7 James makes a number of assertions about the rich. Do you agree with him?