James - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 7, Practice

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Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.

James 1:22

“The only ideas that will work for you are the ones you put to work.” This is certainly a good proverb for all areas of our lives: at home, at school, at work and in the church. How do we get ideas from God? By reading His Word and thinking about what it says. How do we show that we have faith? By doing what His Word says to us individually. Has God given you an idea about something to do for Him and His people? Then prayerfully and humbly put it to work. Our Lord Jesus said, “Occupy till I come.”

CareLines: Volume 2, Salvation: 1

JAM 2:19

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

James 2:19

So, you believe in God! Fine! So do the demons - and they’re scared to death because they know Him only as a Judge who will send them to hell forever. Belief in God is not enough. You must believe in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, for full salvation. There is salvation in no other way. For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we MUST be saved. That name? JESUS!

CareLines: Volume 2, God’s Friend

JAM 2:23

Abraham . . . was called the friend of God.

James 2:23

How come? Because Abraham had absolute trust in what God said. He believed Him, he followed God’s instructions, he followed Him all his life. Abraham is called the father of the faithful, too. But our verse today shows a very special relationship that Abraham had with God - he was His friend. What a tremendous privilege! We who are Christians are even closer than that - we are God’s children. Isn’t that great?

CareLines: Volume 2, Service

JAM 2:26

Faith without works is dead.

James 2:26

This verse is a real challenge for those who say they are Christians. Does their life show it? Faith without works is dead. An admission that you are saved, without service for the Master, doesn’t add up. Sure we don’t expect to see you suddenly drop everything and rush off to Africa as a missionary. But we do expect the new nature to shine out and the old to disappear from view. And along with the new nature comes service. Faith without works is dead.

CareLines: Volume 7, Wisdom

The wisdom that is from above is . . . easy to be entreated.

James 3:17

Godly wisdom, available to all who ask God for it, has many beautiful characteristics. Here is one - it is easy to be entreated. In other words, if you have godly wisdom and someone comes to you with a complaint or a plea, you listen to what they have to say without cutting them off or refusing to listen to their point of view. Too often we are unwilling to listen to others, always thinking that we are right. Let’s ask the Lord for

wisdom to be able to be easily entreated.

CareLines: Volume 2, Lord’s Coming, The: 2

JAM 5:8

The coming of the Lord is drawn nigh.

James 5:8 J.N.D.

Since this was written 2000 years ago, imagine how close we must be to the Lord’s coming now. It is not just a question that it is drawing near but that it has already drawn near. We are right on the threshold of the Lord’s coming. Are you ready? If you have accepted Him as your Savior, are you trying to please Him and serve Him every day?

CareLines: Volume 7, Prayer

Elias [Elijah] was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not.

James 5:17

There was nothing special or supernatural about Elijah. He was an ordinary man. But what set him apart from others was that he had deep faith in God. He prayed with complete confidence that God would hear and answer his prayer. Israel felt the results of Elijah’s prayer for three-and-a-half years. God answers prayer - especially when we believe that He does.

CareLines: Volume 7, Prayer

And [Elijah] prayed again, and the heaven gave rain.

James 5:18

After three-and-a-half years of drought, Elijah prayed to the Lord again. You mean that Elijah only prayed every three years or so? No! Elijah practiced a good prayer life. But he specifically asked the Lord to make it rain. Once again the confidence that Elijah had in God was rewarded and his prayer was answered. To read the complete account of why Elijah did this, read 1 Kings 17-18.

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