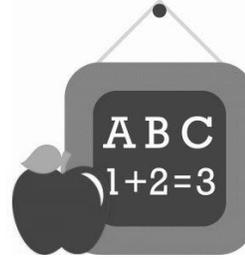


# Back to Basics

*Pursuing Life-Change in  
James*

Pastor Toby Locke • 9/29/2024



## Reading Other People's Mail

James 1:1

### □ The Author: \_\_\_\_\_.

- A \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 13:53-58, Galatians 1:19, see Jude 1:1)
- A \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 3:21, John 7:1-5)
- A \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:14, 1 Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 2:9)
- A \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:1)
- A \_\_\_\_\_.

### □ The Audience:

- Scattered Jewish \_\_\_\_\_. (James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1)
- Maybe Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ as well?

### □ James's Letter...

- ...was probably the \_\_\_\_\_ NT book written.
- ...was written during a time of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ...resembles OT \_\_\_\_\_ literature and the \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ...presses its readers towards practical \_\_\_\_\_ of truth.

### □ A Challenge for You:

- Use the "Bible Reading Challenge" booklet to read the book of James this week!

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Debrief Plan: 9/29/2024

**Icebreakers:**

1. What's the strangest talent or skill you possess?'
2. What's the best book (fiction or non-fiction, doesn't matter) you've read in the last year or so, and what's it about?

**Sermon Summary:** Whenever you read a book of the Bible that started off as a piece of mail written to someone else, it really helps to know who wrote it and who they were writing it to. This knowledge will guide you to properly apply the message of the book to your life in a way that the original author intended.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Imagine for a moment that Jesus grew up in your home with you as your older brother. What would be the blessings? What would be the downsides?
2. James didn't believe in Jesus during His earthly ministry but later became an influential leader in the Early Church. What advantages do former "doubters and skeptics" like James have as they minister to people?
3. Describe the mindset of a "servant" or "bondslave" of Jesus Christ and what kind of actions would show up in that person's life as a result.
4. What challenges do you think Jewish Christians would have that Gentile Christians wouldn't have? What advantages would they have over Gentiles?
5. If you were James, how would you talk to a Jewish Christian differently than you would talk to a Gentile Christian?
6. Why do we humans tend to be more comfortable talking about abstract ideas than practical applications of those ideas? Is it just that we're lazy or is there something more going on?
7. Do we NEED to understand the underlying idea or theological concept behind a command from God to obey it or is the command itself enough?