

Rich Man, Poor Man - [Part 2]

(James 2:1-13)

3. THE WORD OF GOD.

- In recent years, believers have waged battles over the inspiration and authority of God's Word. It is a good thing to defend the truth of God's Word, but we must never forget that our lives and ministries are the best defense. D.L. Moody said, "Every Bible should be bound in shoe leather."
- James reached back into the Old Testament for one of God's laws, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Lev. 19:18) Jesus told us that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help. It's not a matter of geography, but opportunity. The question is not "Who is my neighbor? But To whom can I be a neighbor?"
- Christian love does not mean that I must like a person and agree with him on everything. I may not like his vocabulary or his habits, and I may not want him for a best friend. Christian love means treating others the same way God has treated you. It's an act of the will, not an emotion that I try to manufacture. The motive is to glorify God.
- Did you know we only believe as much of the Bible as we practice? If we fail to obey the most important word "love thy neighbor as thyself" then we will not do any good with the lesser matters of the world!!

- IT was a glaring fault in the Pharisees that they were careful about the minor matters and careless about the fundamentals. (Matt. 23:23) They broke the very law they thought they were defending.

4. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD. (2:12-13)

- Every orthodox statement of faith ends with a statement about the return of Jesus Christ and the final judgment. Not every Christian agrees as to the details of these events, but the certainty of them none denies.
- Both Jesus and Paul assured us that Christian believers will never be judged for their sins, but our works will be judged and rewarded.
- OUR WORD WILL BE JUDGED. Note the words spoken to the two visitors in James 2:3 what we say to people and how we say it will come up before God. Even our careless words will be judged.
- OUR DEEDS WILL BE JUDGED. (vs. 13) James contrasted two attitudes: Showing mercy to others and refusing to show mercy. If we have been merciful toward others, God will show mercy to us.
- It does not mean that we earn mercy by showing mercy, because it is impossible to earn mercy. If it is earned, it is not mercy!!!!!!
- There is one obvious message to this section: Our beliefs should control our behavior. If we really believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that God is gracious, His Word is true, and one day He will judge us, then our conduct will reveal our convictions.

- Before we attack those who do not have Christ, we must be sure that we practice the doctrine we defend. Jonah had wonderful theology, but he hated people and was angry with God.
- One of the tests of the reality of our faith is how we treat other people.
CAN YOU PASS THE TEST?!!!!!!