

Introduction

Review (Notes for messages 1-2 have greater detail than this review section):

- A. 1:1 and 18: The Readers of James Are Dispersed Jewish Believers (Brethren of James)
... to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad. . . (cf. Acts 8:1)
- B. 2:14ff: Addition model: Bike w/o rider. Similarly, unapplied faith goes nowhere.
- C. 1:19-20: Theme and Outline: Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath
- D. Addition model is right in Slow to speak: 1:22 (in 1:21-27); 2:1 (in 2:1-13); 2:20 (in 2:14-26)
- E. 1:21 Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
- F. 1:13-15: The deadly power of sin in believers' lives. L-S-D (Lust, Sin, Death)
- G. 5:19-20 Restoring brethren to fellowship can postpone death
- H. We expect THE before subjects, but not before direct objects of *have*. Thus, James 2:14a-b resembles 1 Cor 13:1-8. We should not say (in James 2:14b): *Such a faith...*
- I. 2:22 would be nonsense, if it means *such a faith*:
Such a faith [that has no works] worked together with Abraham's works(?!?!?!)

NEW EXPOSITION

2:14ff switches between addressing the group, one man (tis) in the group & back again

King James English often helps, but the word *ye* is only used for subjects of sentences.

Therefore, every use of *ye* is plural, but *you* is sometimes singular and sometimes plural.

Thou and *thee* are always singular. I have marked *TIS* (someone), where he appears.

PLURAL: ¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren_{plural}, though a man (tis) say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one (tis) of you_{plural} say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye_{plural} warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye_{plural} give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

SINGULAR: ¹⁸ Yea, a man (tis) may say, *Thou_{singular} hast faith, and I have works: [you_{singular}] shew me thy_{singular} faith without thy_{singular} works, and I will shew thee_{singular} my faith by my works.* ¹⁹ *Thou_{singular} believest that there is one God; thou_{singular} doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.* ²⁰ *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?* ²¹ *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?* ²² *Seest_{singular} thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?* 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.*

PLURAL: ²⁴ Ye_{plural} see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

PLURAL ADDRESSEES (2:14-17)

2:15f Believing that God wants a needy believer to be helped profits nothing, if believers are unwilling to help (James treats this a genuine need, not professional panhandling)

Tis is the spokesman, but he represents a group that is just as unwilling to help as he is.
One (Tis) of you_{plu} say... notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful

2:17 [Similarly, not helping when helping is right] faith w/o works is dead (as dead battery)

SINGULAR ADDRESSEE (2:18-23)

{ 2:18-20 Constitute a diatribe: where James “so to speak” gives microphone to an objector, who (in turn) addresses James (singular) }
{ 2:21-23 is where James addresses the objector and corrects what he says }

PLURAL ADDRESSEES (2:24-26)

2:24-26 is where James returns to addressing the congregation as a whole

Preliminary Analysis of the diatribe: James 2:18-20

In diatribe, the author temporarily hands the microphone to an imagined objector:

Cf. 1 Cor 15:34-36

Paul has the microphone:

³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and sin not...

He gives mic' to someone (Tis): ³⁵ But some man will say, “How are the dead raised up?”

He takes mic' back, calling objector a fool: ³⁶ Thou fool...

James 2:18-20: I correct “without” to “by” in v 18

James has the mic': ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

He gives mic' to objector: ¹⁸ Yea, a man (tis) may say [e.g., object],

“Thou [James] hast faith, and I [Objector] have works: [you, James] shew me thy faith ~~without~~ by thy works, and I [Objector] will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹ Thou [James] believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

He takes mic' back, calling objector a fool: ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

What is the objector saying?

^{18b} “James, I grant that you have faith. I also claim to have works [of some sort]. James, prove what you believe by what you do. [I don't think you can, but if you do] I will match you by showing you what I believe by what I do [but I neither of us can do that, because there is no relation between faith and works]. ¹⁹ I know you believe in monotheism, so you do well. However, James, if you say that belief in monotheism inevitably causes one to do better works than belief in monotheism, I have a counter-example. Demons are monotheists, but (rather than doing good works) they tremble. James will debunk the objector. Come back tomorrow.

CONCLUSION