

## Crystallization-Study – Epistle of James

### **The Mistake of James**

#### **James's Beautiful Portrait of the Mosaic Law**

- **James 2:8** – If indeed you are fulfilling the **royal law** according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well.
- **James 2:10** – For whoever keeps the **whole law** yet stumbles in one [point] has become guilty of all.
- **James 2:12** – So speak and so do as those who are to be judged by the **law of freedom**.
  - James appreciated the law so much that he called it "the royal law."
  - When James refers to the law in verse 10, he is speaking of the Mosaic law.
  - According to the context, the royal law, the Mosaic law, and the law of freedom are one and the same law.
- **James 4:11** – Do not speak against one another, brothers. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.
  - James wanted the believers to be doers of the law of Moses.
- We may wonder how James could consider the Mosaic law as the perfect law, the law of freedom.
  - The thought of the law being the perfect law of freedom was already in the Psalms.
- **James 1:18** – He brought us forth by the word of truth, purposing that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
  - The New Testament teaches us that **God regenerated us by the word of the gospel**, not by the word of the law.
  - Peter says that God regenerated us with an incorruptible seed, and this incorruptible seed is the living and abiding word of God.
  - This shows us the **mixture** of James.
- All the different terms used by James for the law refer to the Mosaic law.
  - The **law**, the **royal law**, the **perfect law of freedom**, the **word of truth**, and the **implanted word** refer to the same Mosaic law.
  - The age of Moses is over. **Now the age of grace is with Christ**.

- In the New Testament, the age of grace, there is no ground for the law.
  - Paul belittled the law to the uttermost, but James uplifted the law to the heavens.
  - James's mistake was covered by his beautiful portrait of the law.
  - Keeping the law fits with the **natural concept of fallen man**.

### **The Purpose of God in Having James as a Book of the Holy Scriptures and Paul's Attitude Toward the Law**

- The purpose of the Epistle of James being written was to **expose James's mistake**.
- The whole Scripture was written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, but not every word in the Bible is the word of God.
- In Galatians 5:1-4, Paul shows us that the **yoke of slavery** is the bondage of the law, which makes the law-keepers slaves under a **binding yoke**.
  - To deviate from Christ to the law is to be entangled or held in a snare.

(Crystallization-Study of the Epistle of James – Message 3)