

## Crystallization-Study – Epistle of James

### **Its Vague Vision, The Side Effects of James's Teaching, The Tragic Issues of James's Mistake, And The Wiping Out by God**

#### **Its Vague Vision Concerning God's Dispensation**

- In God's way to deal with people, James was very vague.
  - James was born and reborn in the **age of grace**, but he carried out God's work in two ways, in two dispensations; the **dispensation of law** and the **dispensation of grace**.
  - James's **opinion** was that God regenerated people to keep the law. **Regeneration**, however, is in the **new dispensation**, and to keep the law is in the old dispensation.
- According to God's New Testament dispensation, **the church is separate from the Jews and also from the Gentiles**. Those in the church are God's new people in the New Testament, but James mixes them with the Jews.
- James taught the Jewish believers to **keep the law** of the Old Testament. Keeping the law was the **responsibility** of the Jews, not of the believers.
- James **appreciated** the law, calling it the "perfect law, the law of freedom" and the "royal law," as the psalmists did in the Old Testament. But in God's New Testament dispensation **Christ has ended (terminated and taken away) the law**.
  - In the New Testament the way God takes to deal with His people is **no longer by the law but by grace**.
  - **The believers are not under the law but under grace**.

#### **The Side Effect of James's Teaching Under His Vague Vision Concerning God's Economy:**

- A **mixture** of God's New Testament dispensation with God's Old Testament dispensation
- Using the **terms** of the Old Testament Jews
  - *The twelve tribes*
  - *Synagogue*
  - *The Lord of Hosts*
- Its words in 1:27 and 4:14 bearing the **element and flavor** of the Old Testament

- James 1:27 – This is pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction [and] to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
- James 4:14 – Whereas you do not know the matter to tomorrow, what your life will be; for you are a vapor, which appears for a little while and then disappears.
- The examples James uses being only for the Old Testament
  - Abraham and Rahab
  - Job and Elijah
- A mixture of God's New Testament chosen people with God's Old Testament elect.
- A mixture of the church practice with the Jews' way of meeting.
- A hidden mixture of the regenerated persons with the natural persons
  - In the church as the organic Body of Christ, everything must be done by the regenerated persons, in whom is God's delight, and nothing should be done by the natural persons, for whom is God's condemnation.
  - Many of us Christians today are like James in that we are mixed persons. We still act and live by trying to be perfect in our natural man. We may be good and ethical but not spiritual. We are ethical persons in our humanity mingled with divinity.

### **The Tragic Issues of James's Mistake**

- The first tragic issue of James's mistake is the blinding of thousands of believers from James's time to today.
- The snaring of the top apostle was also an issue of James's mistake. James persuaded Paul to go back to the law. But the Lord did not tolerate it and came into the situation to blow away the whole deal. However this caused Paul to be arrested and eventually transferred to the prison of Caesar in Rome.

### **The Wiping Out by God**

- God terminated the Jewish religious service to Him with the thorough destruction of the city of Jerusalem with its temple in A.D. 70.
- By the destruction of Jerusalem God also wiped out all the vague situation and mixtures among the believers and separated the believers from the Jewish people.

(Crystallization-Study of the Epistle of James – Message 6)