

James 1:21-2:26 – The ‘Epistle of Straw’?! [Luther not wanting to inc.]

(1:21) **Therefore** [B/c of the Trials – Persecution – Material Poverty]

- It causes the Apostle/Ambassadors/Churches to **Seek God 4 Wisdom** (Practical)
 - They find **Life** in Fellowship with Christ **NOW -> THEN**
 - They find **God’s Provision** (need NOT want) **NOW -> FULLY THEN**
 - They find **An Enduring Faith**:
 - [Believing God’s Promises with a Resolve 4 Obedience.]

CONTEXT: James is Addressing A/A ‘going back’ to Judaism = ‘Dead Faith
(What did/does that look like? **Matt. 23; Luke 11:39**)

(1:22) What ‘word’? – Word of God (2:12) ‘*Law of Liberty*’ – Red Letters/Commands

- What does a ‘Deceived A/A’ Look like? **Heb. 6:4-8**
 - (4) ‘*have become partakers*’ “**Natural Face** (having become)
- What does a Deceived Christian Look Like? [They follow them] **Heb. 6:9-12**

(1:26) Is this spoken of the ‘sinful tongue’ or the ‘self exalting’ one? (Mt.6:1-7)

- The Jewish A/A’s were called out of a ‘Look @ me’! Religious Culture.
 - Other Religious beliefs encourage these practices as well.
 - ‘**Religion**’ (θρησκεία *thrēskēia*) – **Spiritual Devotion**
 - If Prayer-Worship-Request is ‘ABOUT YOU’ – Dead Faith

(1:27) What does ‘Spirit led devotion’ LOOK like? **[Fruit – Work – Obedience]**

- Giving alms to the widows/orphans – keeping oneself unspotted from:
 - cares of this world, deceit of riches, desire 4 other things.

(2:1-5) Don’t...You CAN’T hold the ‘teachings of Christ’ (*Faith*) w. Partiality!

- **Mt. 7:1-6** – ‘*Judgment*’ – Making decisions based on outward appearance
 - (**Plank/Speck** – Looking @ the outside of ‘Dish’ – Not Heart motive)

(2:6) Christ’s Teachings [Holy – Pearl] ARE being cast before the SWINE !!

(2:8-11) You SAY you...*Love God*’....‘*Love your neighbour*’ but discard the teachings of Christ?!! = ‘Dead Faith’ [No Fruit – Work – Obedience]

(2:12-13) YOU will be JUDGED according to YOUR Works (Fruit/Obed.) by THESE ‘RED LETTERS’.

- So DON’T Exalt yourself...Talk about how ‘Holier than thou’ you are...
- AND out of Compassion/Mercy – Give alms to the needs of the widow/orphan
- **FORSAKE** the cares of this world, deceit of riches, desire 4 other things.

¹² So speak and so do as those who will be **judged by the law of liberty.**

¹³ For **judgment** is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.

Mercy triumphs over judgment. [There is still consequences – good/bad]

¹⁴ What *does it profit*, **my brethren**, if someone **says** he has faith [Christ’s teachings] but does not have works? [Obedience/Fruit]

Can faith **[Christ’s Teachings (alone/without obedience)]** save him?

Believer’s Judgment:

- Will be Judged by the Commands given in the Word of God as Disciples
 - Present Disobedience is Judged/Chastisement/Discipline/Death
 - Future – Judgment Seat of Christ: **I Cor. 3:15; II Cor. 5; Rom. 14**
 - ‘suffer loss’ – *zemioo*; receive - whether good or bad

(2:14) **Can Faith Save him?** [Being a Hearer and NOT a Doer (1:12) is THEIR choice.]

- Christ’s Comm. (Red Letters) w. Example & Warnings will = Justice in Judgment
 - NOW -> THEN [consequences in Kingdom]

(2:17) **Your Christian Life:** With Christ’s commands – without Obedience is DEAD

- Physically & Spiritually: Dry/Withered/Barren/Lifeless – DEAD FAITH

(2:18) **Someone** (Believer/Disciple in Context) will say:

- “You are taught/studied in the ‘Word – Commands of Christ’...”
- This is What ‘I think’...this is how ‘I obey’...‘My way’: (Counts for Nothing)
 - **That is NOT obedience to Christ’s Commands** (Closed Bibles)

(2:19) One day with ‘YOUR way’ you will say: ‘**Lord, Lord**’ (**Matt. 7:21-23**)

(2:20-25) **Abraham & Rahab ‘declared outwardly their righteousness’ by their obedience and the Fruit that it produced:**

- You will know them by their ‘Fruit’ – (**Matt. 7:15-20**)

(2:26) Is this the Picture of a Christian’s ‘Dead Faith’....OR...

Is this a Picture of the ‘Hearers ONLY’ who HAVE ‘*deceived THEMSELVES*’?

Can this Happen in Churches? Is this a ‘Season of Life’ (I put my time in) thing?

- Having ONCE been ‘Spiritually Alive’!! Serving – Excited – Connected
- Tasting – Experiencing...**But slowly stopped ‘DOING’**...
 - Slowly in Disobedience...began to ‘Spiritually wither/dry/barren’

²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.