

# New Hope Sunday School: Study of James

## Lesson 2 – From and To - James 1:1

### FROM: The Author's Introduction

- What does James leave out?
  - Apostleship – *Galatians 1:19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.*
  - Brother of Jesus
  - Position in the Church -Acts 15:13-21; Galatians 2:9 *and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.*
- How does James address himself?
  - Servant - Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1
    - Comes from the word “to bind”
  - Does the title of servant diminish the authority of the author?
  - What sort of relationship do slaves have with their masters?

*John 12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

- Why does James distinguish between being a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ?
  - This is a unique statement in the new testament (the greek form)
  - How would the recipients of this letter understand this statement?
  - Another rendering in the Greek would be: “ a servant of Jesus Christ who is God and Lord”.
  - What does this statement say about who James is a servant of?

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### TO: The Recipients

- What sort of people is James addressing this letter to?
- Why does James call them the twelve tribes?
  - What were the twelve tribes in the Old Testament?
  - Why did Christ appoint twelve apostles? Mark 3:13-14
  - What was Christ looking forward to in Matthew 19:28
  - God Establishes the Covenant with Abraham Genesis 17:1-7
  - What does Paul call the people of Christ in Galatians 3:7,6:16 and Romans 4:11,16
  - Compare this with 1 Peter 1:1&2
  - What is brought to mind when we consider the life of Israel in the Old Testament?
- What were the issues of the early Church, especially this particular group of believers?
  - Suffering and Persecution
  - Partiality to the Wealthy- A carryover from a Jewish tradition that wealth indicates the blessing of God.
  - A Lack of Commitment – I am saved by definition therefore there is no need to foster good works.
  - Pride of Heritage
  - Strife within the Church
  - Materialism