

Learning Session Two

The Practice of Pure Religion "Living as My Brother's Keeper"

James 1:26 Any Among Who?

Teachers	Main Thought	Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none">Primary Rudy ProwlBackup Thomas OwensFacilitators Devotion Announcements Prayer	<p>We now look at who it is that James reveals as the recipients of his letter. Their identity helps us to understand and apply the passages in this letter that describe the persons practicing pure and vain religion.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Identify the recipients of the Letter of James, from internal evidence.

> **Review:**

Thought: The word religious occurs only in James 1:26 in the New testament. It is an adjective describing the thinking of the Christian who believes himself to be religious before God. In reality, his heart is deceived, and his religion is vain. James 1:27 reveals that an unbridled tongue is the outward evidence of his vain religion.

God reveals to us briefly, in verse 27, and throughout the book of James, what religious worship is before him (from his standpoint, in his sight, or such as he approves). It is his obvious intent that the error of vain religious practice be avoided by the recipients of James letter along with other Christians of every age who study this book.

It is now important to confirm who the recipients of the of the book of James are.

Class Study and Discussion



1870234 www.fotosearch.com ©

Jas 1:26 If **any man among you** seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Class Exercise



Think of two or three situations that you experienced last week. Share with the class how that life event presented choices that you had to make to do what you believed pleased God and was best for all involved.

Share your reasons for choosing a certain course of action. Share if your decision was linked to your thoughts of what was right in God's sight.

I. Introduction

In lesson two we learn what God has reveal to us in the book of James about **who the** persons are who practice either pure religion and vain religion. We do this by understanding from the internal evidence of the book to whom the letter of James is written.

We begin this series looking at who God reveals through James to be the recipients of this letter. Their identity helps us to understand and properly apply the passages in this letter that describe the persons practicing pure religion and vain religion. In James letter the words pure and the words vain are a description of the **moral** condition and the **outward religious conduct** of the persons practicing "Pure Religion", and the persons practicing "Vain Religion".



Read > James 1:26

Any Among Who?

Key Point: Our first task is to identify who they are by answering the question from the content of **Jas 1:26... If any man among you** . The question is “Any man among **Who?**”

II. Key Words / Study at Home

Bible Definition and use in the New testament from Strong concordance or Thayer's Greek Lexicon

1. **Brethren** adelphos ad-el-fos'

a **fellow believer**, united to one another by the bond of affection, constituting as it were but a single family

Use in New Testament

- a. **Gal 1:2**..... Brothers with Paul the Apostle
- b. **I Cor 5:11**A brother habitually practicing sin
- c. **I Cor 1:10**...Brethren among whom division exist
- d. **Phil 1:14**....Brethren in the Lord
- e. **I John 2:7, 9, 3:10, 14** Those to whom John wrote in

2. **Brethren** adelphos *ad-el-fos'*

any fellow or man, all men

- a. **Heb 2:11**He died for all men

3. **Sister** adelphē ad-el-fay'

one connected by the tie of the Christian religion

- a. > **James 2:15**...sister among the needy in the local congregation

II. Key Words / Study at Home

Bible Definition and use in the New testament from Strong concordance or Thayer's Greek Lexicon

4. **Brotherhood** adelphotēs ad-el-fot'-ace

a. **Strong:** (properly the feeling of *brotherliness*), that is, (the (Christian) *fraternity*;

b. **Thayer** a family of brothers, the brotherhood, a band of brothers, i.e. Christians I Pet 2:17, 5:9

1. **I Peter 2:17**...Love the Brotherhood..I Pet 1:22

2. **I Peter 5:9**....With reference to keeping the Faith with all the Brotherhood undergoing temptation

5. **Beloved** agapētos ag-ap-ay-tos:

to Christians as being reconciled to God and being Judged by him to be worthy of eternal life

a. Christians bound together by mutual love:

> **James 1:16, I Peter 2:11, I Peter 2:1, James 1:21**: Dearly beloved christians enduring trials and temptations

III Class Study and Discussion

Any Among Who?

Jas 1:26 If **any man among you** seem to be *religious*, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this *man's religion is vain*.

James 1: 1-2 The letter of James is addressed to the twelve tribes scattered abroad. We will learn from many passage in this letter that the recipients of James letter are beloved brethren, who have experienced

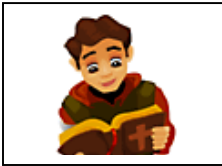
the good and perfect gift of new birth **James 1:17-18**. They were apparently experiencing personal trials and the temptations to sin that always accompany Christian trails **James 1:2-4, 12-16 I Peter 5:8-10**.

Any Man Among Who?**I. James Address his recipients as “*My Brethren*”**

Asv Jas 1:2 Count it all joy, *my brethren*, when ye fall into manifold temptations;

RV Jas 1:2 Count it all joy, *my brethren*, when ye fall into manifold temptations;

MKJV Jas 1:2 *My brothers*, count *it* all joy when you fall into different kinds of temptations,

1. Read

> **Brethren:** James: 1:16, 1:19, 2:1, 2:5, 2:14, 3:1, 3:10, 3:12, 4:11, 5:7, 5:9, 5:10, 5:12, 5:19

> **Brother:** James: 1:9, 2:15, 4:11

> **Sister:** James: 2:15

A. Observation: in KJV James repeatedly identifies the recipients of his letter as brethren. In at-least one passage he refers to them as **brothers and sisters** with basic benevolent needs.

> **Thoughts On Meaning and use of Key words:** The word brethren, brother and sister in James letter is undoubtedly consistent with the definitions given by Thayer's in other books of the New Testament.

> Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines the word for sister in James 2:15 as “***one connected by the tie of the Christian Religion***”. Obviously from the context the word brother in this verse means the same thing.

III There are two other key references that show that the recipients of James letter are fellow believers and members of the same Family.

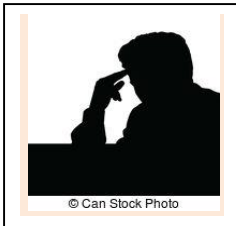
Jas 1:16 Do not err, *my beloved rethren.*

Jas 1:18 Of his own will *begat he us* with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James refer to the recipients of his letter as **My Beloved Brethren**

James states that they had been **birthed by God**, and that he also is one who had experience new birth along with them.

IV. Conclusion



© Can Stock Photo

Thought: Conclusion: The question “*any among who?*”, from James 1:26, is answered by the many references in the book of James to the identity of his recipients. His recipients were referred to as his brethren, his beloved brethren, and his sister or brother. There are about 17 references throughout James letter that identify his recipients Christians. I believe that this is ample internal evidence to show that the recipients of James letter were Christians.

Their identity helps us to understand and apply the passages in this letter that describe the persons practicing pure religion and vain religion. In James letter the words pure and the words vain are a description of the **inner heart** condition and the **outward religious conduct** of the persons practicing “Pure Religion”, and the persons practicing “Vain Religion”.

V. Class Exercise

1. Key Words



A. Match the Word and Give the Passage

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Beloved | a. one connected by the tie of the Christian religion ____ Passage _____ |
| 2. Brethren | b. Family of brothers ____ Passage _____ |
| 3. Sister | c. Esteem, dear, worthy of love ____ Passage _____ |
| 4. Brotherhood | d. A fellow believer ____ Passage _____ |

B. Questions Fill in the Blanks

- What is the purpose of this lesson _____ ?
- What two words in James 2:15 identify the recipients of James letter ?

- What question from James 1:26 are we answering?
_____.
- Give the answer to the question “is any among who”? from the following passages.

James 1:2 _____ James 1:16, 18 _____ James
2:15 _____ or _____

VI. Glossary of Key Words

I. **Brethren,**

- Strong's G80 adelphos *ad-el-fos'*:** From G1 (as a connective particle) and delphus (the *womb*); a *brother* (literally or figuratively) near or remote (much like [H1]): - brother.

a. **Thayer Greek Lexicon**

1. a fellow believer, united to another by the bond of affection, constituting as it were but a single family
2. any fellow or man

Part of Speech: noun masculine

2. **Strong G81** adelphotēs ***ad-el-fot'-ace*** From G80; *brotherhood* (properly the feeling of *brotherliness*), that is, (the (Christian) *fraternity*: - *brethren*, *brotherhood*. Total KJV occurrences: 2

a. **Thayer Greek Lexicon**

1. brotherhood, brotherly kindness
2. a family of brothers, the brotherhood **I Peter 2:17, 5:9**

Part of Speech: noun feminine

A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: from **G80**

II. **Sister**

1. **Strong's G79** adelphē ***ad-el-fay'*** Feminine of G80; a *sister* (natural or clerical): - sister. **Total KJV occurrences: 24**

> **Thayer Definition:**

- 1) a full, own sister
- 2) one connected by the tie of the Christian religion

Part of Speech: noun feminine

A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: from G80

III. **Beloved**

1. **Strong's G27** agapētos ***ag-ap-ay-tos***: From G25; *beloved*: - (dearly, well) beloved, dear.

> **Thayer Definition:**

- 1) beloved, esteemed, dear, favourite, worthy of love

Part of Speech: adjective