

A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

Genuine Faith

III THE TRIUMPH OF GENUINE FAITH - James 5:7-20

LESSON 12 - Faith Confronts the Erring Brother - James 5:19-20

KEY VERSE

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins (James 5:19, 20).

PONDER²

READ James 5:19-20.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

THE BRETHREN

READ James 5:19.

1. Who is James addressing (v. 19a)? _____

2. How did Jesus teach that believers are spiritual brethren (Matthew 12:46-50)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What do the following Scriptures teach about the brotherhood of believers?

Matthew 23:8 _____

¹ Genuine: authentic, real.

² PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

John 20:17, 18 _____

Romans 8:29 _____

Hebrews 2:10-12, 17 _____

PERSONAL

How does the truth that the Son of God calls Himself the believers' brother, impact your life? _____

THE WANDERING BRETHREN

READ James 5:19.

1. Who is in danger of wandering³ from the truth (v. 19b)? _____

2. What exhortation is given to the believer (Hebrews 2:1)? _____

_____ ⁴

PERSONAL

DEFINE in your own words what it means to wander from the truth? _____

³ wanders - Greek *plano* cause to roam: go astray, deceive, err, seduce, be out of the way; wander from safety, truth and virtue.

⁴ heed - Greek *prosecho* to hold the mind: pay attention; be cautious about; apply oneself; adhere; beware.

LOOK DEEPER

Use the following Scriptures to answer the questions as they pertain to each verse. What are the consequences of those who wander from the truth? What causes believers to wander away?

Proverbs 14:14a _____

Proverbs 21:16 _____

Isaiah 53:6 _____

Jeremiah 18:15 _____

Jeremiah 50:6 _____

Matthew 24:11-13 _____

Galatians 1:6-8 _____

Galatians 4:8, 9 _____

I Timothy 5:15 _____

II Timothy 4:10 _____

Revelation 2:1-5 _____

PERSONAL

How have these Scriptures warned you to keep yourself from straying from the truth? _____

3. The brethren are exhorted to turn the wandering one back to the truth (James 5:19c). What is truth? What will the Truth do?

Psalm 119:160 _____

John 14: 5, 6 _____

John 16:13-15 _____

John 17:17-19 _____

PERSONAL

How have you wandered away from the truth? What are the consequences you suffered? _____

THE SOUL-WINNING BRETHREN

READ James 5:20.

1. When one of the brethren turns a sinning believer from the error of his way, what will be the result (v. 20)?

5

6

2. How are we taught as believing brethren in the Lord, to turn an erring brother back to the Truth?

Proverbs 27:5, 6 _____

Luke 17:3, 4 _____

Galatians 6:1-5 _____

Ephesians 4:1-3 _____

Ephesians 5:8-11 _____

⁵ save - Greek *sozo* safe: to save, deliver; protect – heal, preserve, do well, make whole; save to spiritual salvation and restoration.

⁶ death - Greek *thanatos* deadly: eternal spiritual death.

II Timothy 4:1-5 _____

Jude 20-25 _____

PERSONAL

How have you been led by the Holy Spirit to turn an erring brother back to Jesus, the Truth? _____

3. What do these Scriptures declare about brethren who turn a wandering believer back to the truth and *cover⁷ a multitude of sins⁸*?

What the brethren are instructed to do (I Peter 4:7, 8)? _____

⁷ *cover* - Greek *kalypto* cover up: hide, veil.

⁸ *sins* - Greek *hamartia* offense: miss the mark, to err; wander from the path of uprightness and honor; wander from the Law of God; violate God's Law.

What will happen to the wandering brethren whose sin is covered (Psalm 32:1, 2)? _____

WRITE out the KEY VERSE _____

*Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth,
and someone turns him back, let him know
that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way
will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

James 5:19, 20

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,

His holy name and His Word have been capitalized.

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