

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

THE EPISTLES OF THE DISCIPLES

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James 2:17

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:22-24

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

James 2:26

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

In the work of James may be seen a repetition of the Master's love for parables.

James 3:10-12

Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be.

Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

In the Bible there is no more important instruction given than is contained within the third chapter of the Epistle of James.

James 3:5-8

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth.

And the tongue is a fire, a world of

iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Only the occultist realizes the full power of the spoken word. Every such word releases a power that is constructive or destructive. These vibrational impacts tend to shatter or heal both the recipient and the sender. The spoken word is formative in its power, possessing both shape and color.

James 3:10

Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing.

A large percentage of disease has its source in these two contradictory streams of force that issue from and return to a person. If every spoken word were constructive, health would prevail instead of disease.

James 3:13-18

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy

to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

In every Book of the Bible is to be discovered the Ancient Wisdom teaching that attainment comes not without chastity.

James 4:1-4

From whence come wars and fighting among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Through lust and passion came sorrow, pain and death as the heritage of all mankind. Permanent escape from these can be found only through regeneration, which is the teaching central to the whole of the Bible. It is the stone, rejected by the builders, which is destined to become the chief cornerstone of the temple of the New Humanity. No lasting remedy for the ills of man will ever be discovered apart from regeneration.

Paul admonishes us to "Put on the whole armor of God." James counsels: "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." In the beauty and clarity of their teachings, both Paul and James were drawing experiences through which they themselves had passed.

James the Just spent so much time in prayer for the sins of his people that he could speak from his own inner experience when he counseled:

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The following ancient liturgy is attributed to James. It was translated into English by Drs. Rattray and Neale and does appear to bear the imprint of James' devoutly earnest and serious spirit.

"For them that bear fruit and do good deeds in the holy churches of God, that remember the poor, the widows and the orphans, the strangers and them that are in need, and for them that have desired us to make mention of them in our prayers, and they that carry on their struggle in the caves and dens and holes of the Earth;

"For Christians that sail, that journey, that are strangers, and for our brethren that are in bonds, and exiles and imprisonment and bitter slavery, their peaceful return."

Twice in the liturgy the prayer occurs "For the peace of the whole world and the unity of the holy churches of God."

The Epistles of Peter

The First Epistle of Peter contains numerous references to Initiation, the return of Christ to his own, and the establishment of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein those who have made themselves worthy shall know a greater glory than has yet been revealed unto them. He alludes to future events in his own life, and also in the lives of his disciples; he moreover, evidences a continued communion with his Teacher, the Christ Himself. These are teachings of mystic Christianity and are accepted and demonstrated by its followers according to their degree of development and progress.

Esoteric students of Christianity know that the Disciples are working upon inner planes through and with spiritual movements. Their work is observed and studied there by those who have been able to penetrate the veil which separates the seen from the unseen, the transitory from the eternal. In the near future humanity will become increasingly aware of the contact these holy ones still retain with the earth plane.

The fundamental aim of New Age religion is to awaken the Christ within man.

[To be continued]