



Famous Chapter 2's of The New Testament

Who butters your bread? I love saying that. What I mean is who takes care of you? Who is your mentor or authority figure? Some people have a sugar momma or daddy that takes care of you. Who is that for you? James opens this letter asking that very question. By tradition James the brother of Jesus wrote this letter. Yet, he is not specifically identified as the writer. There were many James in the Bible. Yet, it fits. Would a brother of Jesus submit to his older brother? Would we? The power in James saying we should recognize Jesus as the person who butters our bread is amazing and powerful. James mentions humbleness and submitting. There is a realness in this letter.

What makes James 2 famous? If the brother of Jesus wrote this then it has depth and heartfelt humbleness. Right off the bat James goes for the heart and pride. James 2:1 “*My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.*” In English “if you have faith in Christ Jesus you will have respect of persons.” In chapter one James asks if we are dedicated to Jesus. Is he our Lord? Within chapter 2 he is asking if we are respecting those around us regardless of status. Do you respect the poor and rich alike?

There is a great verse here in James 2 verse 10 “*or whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*” What laws do you keep that make you worthy of heaven? Worthy of being called good enough? James is pointing out that sin is subjective. We judge people on status or appearance. Do we think something in their wealth is a sign that God is blessing them? It only takes one breaking of a law to break a law. Sometimes Paul and other

writers of the Bible are accused for being hard to understand. People think the laws of God just apply to Jews. Both of these men love to point out that “we all” are under one law and one grace. Just as God gives us grace to repent, He is the only judge, not us. James wants us to make sure we get that.

James 2:17 *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”* Then James goes on into a correlation between faith and works. English again please!! In James 1 he asks us about our faith in Jesus. Is it genuine? In James 2 he is asking if that faith is seen in the love of persons. In the last part of this chapter, James makes his point. How can we do good works of the Lord without faith? Further to this is entry into the kingdom. Status, wealth, and faith alone cannot get you into heaven. There must be evidence of your character and sincerity that you’re a believer. A believer will naturally do good works for God. So, it’s not the works themselves but the driver behind them. Do you have the Spirit of the Lord?

There is a song by Darrel Evens called “freedom.” It says where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. James would take it a step further by saying where the Spirit of the Lord is there is faith and good works. If you asked me in a blind test to say Paul or James wrote this, I’d be hesitant. Chapter 1 and 2 build on each other just like Paul writes. This is a famous chapter for a reason. By our faith we will be known to the world as Christ followers. That’s it in a nutshell.

One final thought is found near the end of this chapter 2. In essence Abraham and Rahab were characters in the Bible outside the Jewish faith. Yet, they heard and believed. I believe James is telling us that they had great faith because they were not born knowing God. James is saying there is no difference of persons. That’s the way of God. As James ventures into chapter 3, he is expounding on the first two chapters. What comes out of your mouth? What drives your words and actions? James 2 is a masterpiece of fitting works and faith together. A template of

fitting all persons together. It's a hard truth that we are no more special in Gods eyes than another person. Good words from James that we all need to hear and enact in our lives.