

Beginnings Famous & Endings

James 5:19-20

“My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins”

Sometimes we read things and make up our mind. Other times we hear things and make up our mind. The verse above is a reminder that all is not what it seems. Why I feel these two verses are famous is because of what is said and not said. There are far too many rules and traditions inside religion. But, patrick they keep the religion safe and steady. Do they? Is there one religion? One way to believe? One set of rules? We know the answer to that don't we.

Let's quickly break these verses down. Verse 19 is simple. People can wander from their religion. People appear to do holy and unholy actions. The trouble is in what is holy. For one church the issues is smoking. In another church it's unmarried sex. Recently I read a job posting for a church. They said drinking is ok within the legal limits. Which are? Marijuana is legal now but this church says no. 20 years ago drinking would have been a no. What do you think will happen 20 years from now? We know that answer don't we.

The second part makes it murkier. A Christian could bring a person back into right standing of the church. They are forgiven of the wrongs they did. Verse 20 says it without saying it. It saves them from death and covers a multitude of sins they have done. These verses are famous because of hope. There are far too many people who think that religious people lead

clean lives. Some Christians believe that those who sin or do unholy things are not saved, not clean, and not our friends. We can pull out many verses that on their own say so. Yet, we have these two verses. They both say a lot that is not said.

Christianity is hard. God's way is hard. If it was so easy then why did Adam and Eve fall from Grace? They had one rule or command to follow. Just one! Do not eat of a certain tree. Do you have any idea how many other trees there were in Eden? It's a garden, I bet there were many. They had no ten commandments. No Jewish laws. Just one rule. So then, why do I say it's hard? It's hard because we can't even keep one simple rule. We could not even keep ten simple commands. Humankind is just not that way.

So, James knows this. He says we might wander. What's missing these days is the friend or mentor. Someone who is willing to turn a wanderer back? People tend to distance themselves from people who make them look dirty. Jesus died for all our sins. These verses say that sin is still covered when we return from wandering. Friends care. Friends have a heart to bring us back. Friends never stop trying. Is it possible to lose your salvation? I say no, but some verses make me wonder. That should make friends, brothers, and sisters in faith worry about those they love.

Matthew 24:24 "For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.