

# Gospel Doctrine Sunday School

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 3, Issue 42

Today's Word: pure

Nov. 25, 2007

Are You:

- Serving Others  
Whenever Possible?
- Giving a Fast Offering  
Every Month?

## Today's Scriptures

James

Next Week:

Lesson 43:  
"A Chosen  
Generation"

1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude

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## Lesson 42: "Pure Religion"

The book of James teaches us to:

- Endure affliction patiently,
- Pray to God in faith,
- Control our tongues,
- Be "slow to wrath," and
- Be "doers of the word."

### Questions to Ponder

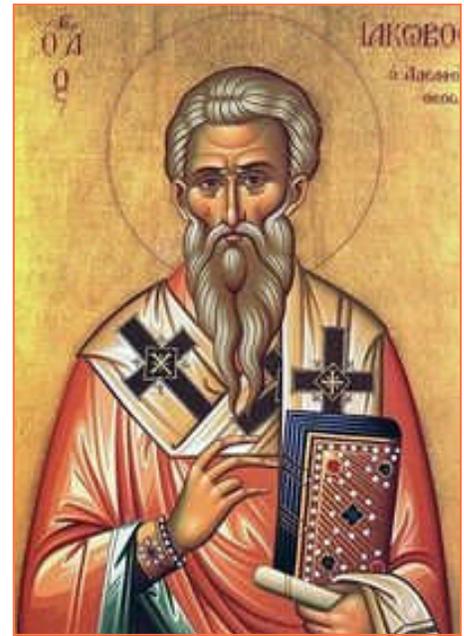
- What did James teach about the relationship between faith and works?
- How does sincere prayer bring us closer to God?
- Why do you think visiting and helping people in need is part of pure religion?

### About the Author:

#### "The General Epistle of James"

"Many of us have a father or mother, husband or wife, brother or sister, son or daughter who rejects the gospel we hold so precious. Many compassionate and helpful sermons have been given on how best to handle this situation, but I have never heard one that attempted to examine how the Savior dealt with that problem in his own family. . . . Paul relates that after the risen Christ had appeared to Peter, then to the other Apostles, and then to five hundred of the worthy brethren, Jesus appeared also to his brother James (See 1 Cor. 15: 5-7). The details of that reunion are not available to us, but the results are. James and his brothers [Joses, Simon, and Judas] responded as did Saul of Tarsus and Alma the Younger and the four sons of Mosiah. The brothers not only repented, but they became committed servants of Christ—their eldest brother—and eventually powerful leaders in the early church.

"James quickly rose to a position of leadership. Indeed, Paul implies that James became an Apostle. . . . Whatever his exact position in the early church government, we treasure James's general epistle to the church. The former nonbeliever wrote—most likely from his own painful yet glorious experience with his resurrected brother—'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.' (James 1:5) (Carlfred B. Broderick, "The Brothers of Jesus: Loving the Unbelieving Relative," *Ensign*, Mar. 1987, 50).



Greek Icon of James—called "James the Just"

A note about the art depicted above: As I often include some artwork on this flyer relevant to the lesson, I found this picture (which is in the public domain) on the wikipedia entry about James. Although we Latter-day Saints do not believe in saints like the Catholic church (especially Greek Orthodox) does, I felt that it was interesting looking and worthy of reproduction enough to feature it here, despite its ecclesiastical affiliation. James was the first bishop of Jerusalem and the first of the Seventy.—wwa