

The Letter of St. James Handout Lesson 5

THE LETTER OF ST. JAMES	LEVITICUS CHAPTER 19
1). 2:1: <i>My brothers do not let class distinction (partiality) enter into your faith in Jesus Christ our glorified Lord.</i>	19:15-16: <i>You will not be unjust in administering justice. You will neither be partial to the poor nor overawed by the great, but will administer justice to you fellow citizen justly.</i>
2). 2:6: <i>You on the other hand have dishonored the poor.</i>	19:18: <i>You will not exact vengeance on, or bear any sort of grudge against the members of your race...</i>
3). 2:8: <i>Well, the right thing to do is to keep the supreme Law of Scripture: you will love your neighbor as yourself...</i>	19:18c: <i>...but will love your neighbor as yourself. I am Yahweh.</i>
4). 4:11: <i>Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who slanders a brother, or condemns one, is speaking against the Law and condemning the Law. But if you condemn the Law, you have ceased to be subject to it and become a judge over it.</i>	19:16: <i>You will not go about slandering your own family, nor will you put your neighbor's life in jeopardy. I am Yahweh.</i>
5). 5:4: <i>Can you hear crying out against you the wages which you kept back from the laborers mowing your fields? The cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord Sabaoth.</i>	19:13: <i>You will not exploit or rob your fellow. You will not keep back the laborer's wage until next morning.</i>
6). 5:12: <i>Above all my brothers, do not swear by heaven or by the earth or use any oaths at all. If you means 'yes', you must say 'yes'; if you mean 'no', say 'no'. Otherwise make yourselves liable to judgment.</i>	19:12: <i>You will not swear by my name with intent to deceive and thus profane the name of your God. I am Yahweh.</i>
7). 5:20: <i>...he may be sure that anyone who can bring back a sinner from his erring ways will be saving his soul from death and covering over many a sin.</i>	19:17b: <i>You will reprove your fellow countryman firmly and thus avoid burdening yourself with a sin.</i>

*Leviticus 19:11 and 19:14 are not literally repeated in James' letter, but the substance of those commands is echoed in James 2:14-16 and 3:13-4:10.

St. Paul's Teaching on the Necessity of Faith and Deeds in the Law of the Gospel is in Agreement with St. James' Teaching:
Romans 2:5-8: <i>Your stubborn refusal to repent is only storing up retribution for yourself on that Day of retribution when God's just verdicts will be made known. He will repay everyone as their deeds deserve. For those who aimed for glory and honor and immortality by persevering in doing good, there will be eternal life; but for those who out of jealousy have taken for their guide not truth but injustice, there will be the fury of retribution.</i>
Romans 2:13: <i>For the ones that God will justify are not those who have heard the Law but those who have kept the Law.</i>
Romans 13:8-10: <i>The only thing you should owe to anyone is love for one another, for to love the other person is to fulfill the law. All these: You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and all the other commandments that there are, are summed up in this single phrase: You must love your neighbor as yourself. Love can cause no harm to your neighbor, and so love is the fulfillment of the Law.</i>
Galatians 5:5-6: <i>We are led by the Spirit to wait in the confident hope of saving justice through faith, since in Christ Jesus it is not being circumcised or being uncircumcised that can effect anything—only faith working through love.</i>
Galatians 5:13-14: <i>After all, brothers, you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in the one commandment: You must love your neighbor as yourself.</i>
Galatians 6:2: <i>Carry each other's burdens; that is how to keep the law of Christ.</i>