

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon notes for December 2-3, 2000**

**"Saving a Soul from Death"**

**James 5:19-20**

**Dale Whitehead**

James wrote this epistle to call professing believers to examine their faith and to make sure it was real.

James in this epistle gives a series of tests by which one's faith can be evaluated.

True saving faith is marked by a proper response to trials which we called the "response to trials test" in James 1:2-18.

True saving faith is marked by a proper response to the Word of God which we called the "response to the Word test" in James 1:19-27.

True saving faith is marked by its proper response to people of various social classes which we called "the impartiality test" in James 2:1-13.

True saving faith is marked by its manifestation in righteous deeds which we called "the works test" in James 2:14-26.

True saving faith is marked by righteous speaking which we called "the speech test" in James 3:1-12.

True saving faith is marked by wisdom from above which we called "the wisdom test" in James 3:13-18.

True saving faith is marked by not being a friend of the world which we called "the friendship with the world test" which extends from James 4:1 to 5:12.

This friendship is shown to manifest itself in four different ways in this particular section. Friendship with the world reveals itself in selfish strife in James 4:1-12, in an attitude of presumptuous self sufficiency in business planning in James 4:13-17, in wrong reactions to experiences of injustice in James 5:1-11 and in self-serving oaths in James 5:12.

Finally true saving faith is marked by prayer which we have considered in James 5:13-18.

What have learned about them from James 5:19-20?

Caring Christians can be instrumental in restoring straying brothers (James 5:19).

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Professing believers who are restored by caring Christians are saved from death.

The genuineness of our faith and whether or not it is living or saving should not be evaluated on the basis of what we say but rather on the basis of what we do. If we live like sinners we should be viewed as sinners.

James' reference to "death" should be understood as "spiritual death" based on the epistle's theme and choice of words in verse 20.

We are ambassador's for Christ and therefore should be seeking to turn people from their sin to Jesus. We are to persistently carry out this work whether those sinners are inside or outside the church so that they may live their lives according to the truth.

The person who dies without their sins being covered will be consciously tormented.

Initially the place of conscious torment will be in a place called "Hades" (Luke 16:19-26).

The final place of conscious torment will be in the "Lake of Fire" (Revelation 20:11-14).

The person who dies without their sins being covered will be tormented forever (Revelation 20:10).