MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK: James 1:12
If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

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MY NOTES

My Insights

My Questions

MONDAY, JULY 4

Read Hebrews 13

1. Have you ever "entertained angels unawares"? Describe the experience. Can you share it with the class?
2. How does today's relative morality compare to verse 4? Would the world call this scripture judgmental? Is it? If so, is that a loving thing or a hateful thing?
3. Verse 15 encourages us "to continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name". How do we do this? In James, (tomorrow) he talks about the power of the tongue. Does your tongue offer praise to God? Always, mostly, sometimes?

- **Prayer:** ***Thank You, Lord, for creating me in Your Image. Strengthen me to resist the temptations of the world and fill my lips with Your praise.***

TUESDAY, JULY 5

Read James 1

1. In the memory verse, it promises wisdom. What is wisdom? Give a couple of examples.
2. Martin Luther felt that the teachings of James contradicted the teachings of Paul. Why? Where was the conflict?
3. Can the teachings of Christ be the underlying foundation of James even though he only mentions Christ twice? "They will know you are Christians by your _____."

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, fill me with Your Holy Spirit that I might have Your Wisdom in all that I say, do, and think.***

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Read James 2

1. "So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." What does this mean to you? Do good works produce faith? How did Christ view good works? (Matthew 7:16-23)
2. What do you think that verse 24 mean to you as a Christian? Does it conflict with justification by faith alone?
3. What is our role in society as Christians? How do we perform "good works?" How do we discern when our good works are helping someone or hurting them by supporting their dependency?

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, so fill me with Your love that the good works that I do flow from the redeemed creature You have made.***

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Read James 3

1. James teaches about the human tongue. "… but no human being can tame the tongue." What are we to do if we are powerless to control even our own tongue?
2. Jesus said that a man was defiled not by what went into his stomach but what came out of his mouth (Matthew 15:18). How does understanding this teaching shift our focus from deeds (what we eat) to faith (what is in our heart can only be changed by faith). Does this discount the importance of good deeds?
3. Does verse 16 apply today? What is our role as Christians in a world full of "… disorder and every vile practice?" (v16).

- **Prayer:** ***Heavenly Father, give me passion to pursue Your Wisdom and be salt to Your creation.***

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Read James 4

1. To whom was the letter written (see 1:1)? Hebrews also was written to a Christian Jewish audience. How are the books similar? How are they different?
2. Verse 4, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" Do you see mainstream Protestant churches aligning themselves with God's Word or modifying what they believe based on today's culture and worldviews? What is the result?
3. I have a lawyer friend that disagrees with the sin of omission. What does verse 17 say about that knowing what to do and not doing it?

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, increase my devotion to You and help me to resist the sirens' song of today's woke culture.***

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Read James 5

1. What does James say about riches? What does Jesus say in Matthew 6:19-21? Why are we tempted to place more trust in earthly riches than Godly riches?
2. Is your "yes" a "yes" and your "no" a "no" or do you sometimes "fudge" the truth? How might an unbeliever react to the Gospel spoken truthfully with conviction and love?
3. Verse 16 says that we should confess our sins one to another. Do we do that in the Lutheran church? When? What is the result? How do earthly riches compare to forgiveness of your sin?

- **Prayer***: **Lord, let me be a faithful servant who is honest and loving to those in my life.***