



**Sunday, April 11, 2010: Epistle of James - "The Royal Law"**

**Scripture: James 2:1-13**

**Speaker: Joe Boot**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Partiality violates God's law and undermines the church's witness to the world. (Compare Deuteronomy 1:17)
2. The faith of our Lord Jesus is incompatible with making valuations on the basis of socio-economic status.
3. For James there is an unbroken continuity with the ancient Jewish faith, and so he uses the term Christian Synagogue.
4. James says we're wrong in showing particular honour to those who are rendered blasphemers by their conduct.
5. When addressing dignitaries, we should not pander for their favour, but we should speak truthfully, giving righteous judgment.
6. James and Jesus quote Leviticus 19:18: Love your neighbour as yourself. (Compare: Matthew 22:36-40)
7. Many people believe we can distinguish love and law; however, love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:8-10)
8. We're convicted as transgressors, when we judge by appearances as Jesus said. (John 7:24)
9. James says the law is a unity: we can't rely on our obedience in some areas to cancel our transgression in others.
10. Calvin said we must make our behaviour consistent in obeying every area of God's law, including inconvenient ones.
11. Until the end of history Jesus says we must be diligent to obey and teach all the details of God's law. (Matthew 5:17-19)
12. The work of the Holy Spirit is to conform us to the image of His Son. Jesus honoured God's law and so must we.
13. We've been released from the curse of the second death, but we're still going to be judged according to God's law for eternal rewards.

14. The main uses of the law include: to restrain evil-doers in society; to convict individuals of their sin; and to provide a guide for Christian conduct.
15. We cannot save ourselves by law-keeping, we are justified by faith alone, but the law is our standard of conduct to show love toward God and our fellow man.
16. As recipients of God's grace and mercy, we must show grace and mercy to others.

**Application Questions:**

1. What does 1 Corinthians 1:17-21 say about God's view of partiality?
2. Do I show ungodly partiality in my relationships?
3. Do I have the courage to witness truthfully to dignitaries, or do I crave their favour irrespective of truth?
4. What is the biblical relationship between law and love? Is this reflected in my personal ethics?
5. Do I delight in the law of God as a law of liberty? Compare Hebrews 8:10-12, Jeremiah 31, Psalm 119.
6. Do I show grace and mercy to others as God has shown it to me?