“Introduction to the Book of James”

Intro: The book of ________.

A. This book has had a history of ________ and prejudice.
   1. Because the church misused this scripture, Martin Luther wrote of this book saying, “Saint James’s epistle is a right ________ epistle.
      a. Such neglect and prejudices shown this Book are ________.

B. This book is keenly and powerfully practical. Though it is not deep in presenting doctrinal truths, it is extremely deep in presenting ________ (living that conforms to the doctrinal teachings of scripture).
   1. Sound Bible doctrine that is believed must be ________ in the believer’s life.
   2. Edmund Hiebert writes, “This epistle sternly ________ upon Christian ________ consistent with Christian belief, heaps scathing contempt upon all ________ profession, ...”

C. Some refer to this book as the miniature “___________ on the Mount” (Matt. 5-7).

D. The ________.
   1. The Author is ________ (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16).
   2. The penman is ________.
      a. The James who wrote this letter is the half-brother of ________.

James 1:1

I. James identifies himself as “a ________-__________.”
   A. Such a slave would be one who was bound to exclusively and permanently ________ the will of their ________.
   B. James identifies himself as a bond-servant of _________. He serves God ________ and depends upon God ________.
      1. It is an ________ to be a bond-slave to God.
   C. James further identifies himself as a bond-servant of “the ________ ________ ________.”
      1. In claiming to be a bond-servant to both God and the Lord Jesus Christ, he claims they are ________!
a. If we are going to be a servant of God, we must be a servant of Jesus Christ. We cannot claim to serve God and ___________ the commandments of Christ Jesus for they are One!

2. James also identifies his half brother Jesus as the ___________ - the Messiah!

3. James declares Jesus to be his “__________.”

II. James original audience was the Jewish ____________.

A. Truth is not ___________ to an era. It truly is as Edmund Hiebert wrote, “This epistle sternly insists upon Christian practice consistent with Christian belief, ... Its stress upon the gospel’s ethical imperative makes the epistle as ____________ today as when it was first written.”

III. James ____________ the reader.

A. The word translated “Greetings” literally means, “Rejoice” or “Be glad!” Immediately James tells the persecuted believer that they have cause to “__________!”

1. James was writing to ____________ a people who had suffered much for their blood line; and moreover, been ____________ for their faith in Christ.

a. James’ letter will:

___________ the believer in their faith that they might stand and know for what they stand;

___________ the believer in their living that they might live in peace one with another;

___________ the believer contentment in all things as they wait patiently upon the return of the Lord!

Who is the Lord to you?

Dear church, this salvation that we possess is not a casual salvation, but it is a salvation that is of the Holy God and His Son Jesus. Have you found it to be your greatest _______ in being a bond-servant of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ?

When we come to find our greatest ________________ in serving the Lord our God, and Jesus who is the Christ, we will find the instruction of this letter most applicable, and we will not be casual about obeying this instruction, but we will ____________ it.

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