

# SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

## God's Call

- **2/5 – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**; God's requirement for calling is not how we judge requirements. He requires those who are humble in spirit but will work with those the world does not consider worthy or wise.
- **2/12 – 2 Timothy 1:13-14**; Paul encourages Timothy to operate in his spiritual gifts, activities and ministry for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

From Darkness to Light  
God's Call

02/19/2023

Responsibility of  
Those Called

James 2:1 – 12

02/19/2023

# Background

- James is the half-brother of Jesus Christ. He is the offspring of Joseph and Mary
- Although the epistle of James is placed toward the end of the New Testament, it is the first letter of instruction written to the church—thus the first book of the New Testament written.
- Like the Book of Proverbs, James provides practical wisdom to the Church in difficult times

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# Background

- Unlike Paul, his epistle focuses less on Christian doctrine but more on faith in action (e.g. faith without works is dead **2:17**)
- He was one of the first martyrs of the church, executed in AD 62

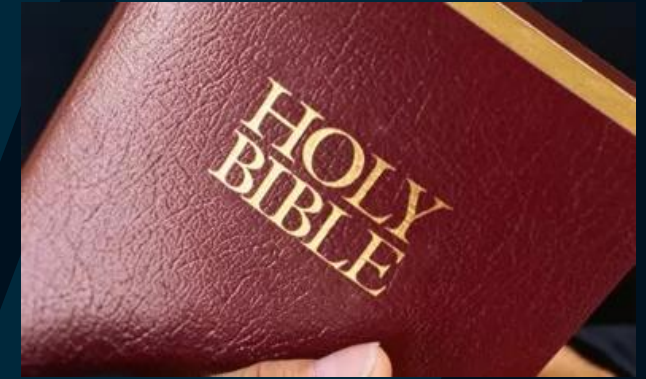
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# Lesson Text

Beware of Personal Favoritism

## James 2:1-3a (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in <sup>[a]</sup>fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in <sup>[b]</sup>filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you <sup>[c]</sup>pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place,"



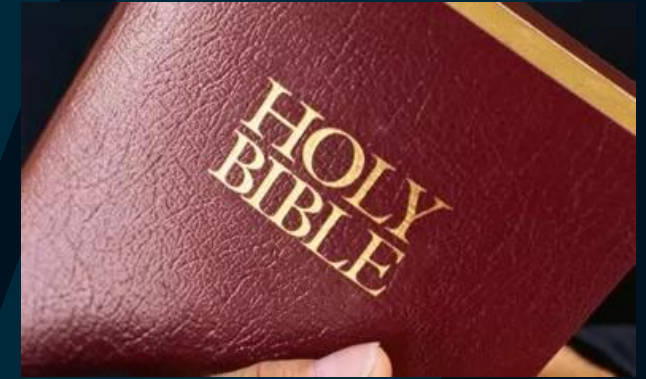
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# Lesson Text

Beware of Personal Favoritism

## James 2:3b-5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," <sup>4</sup> have you not [d]shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?



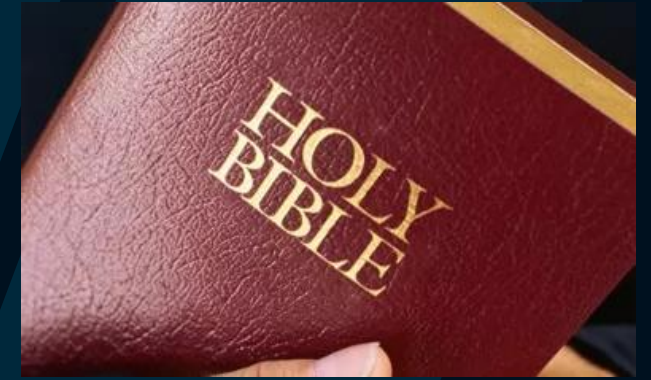
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# Lesson Text

Beware of Personal Favoritism

## James 2:6-8 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? <sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;



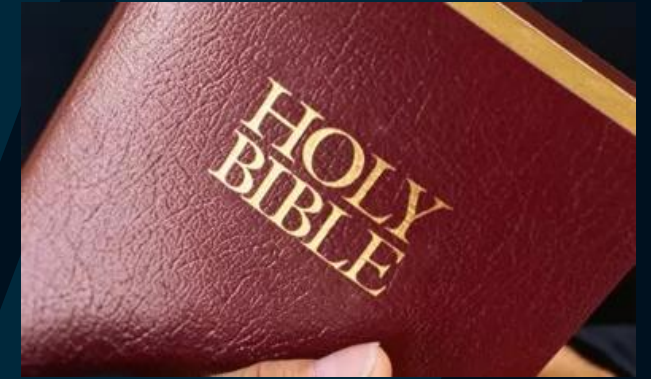
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# Lesson Text

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## James 2:9-11 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> but if you [e]show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.



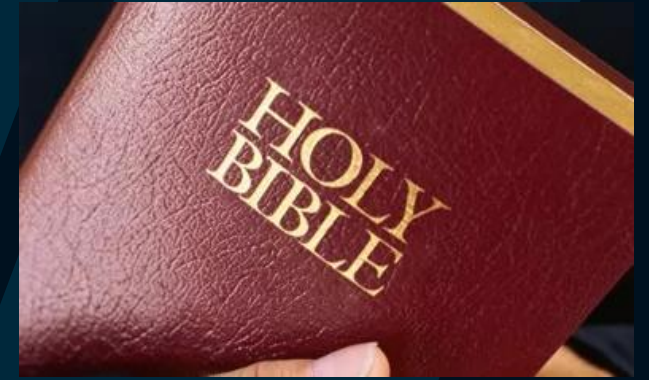


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## Bonus Text\*

### Genesis 2:26-27 (NKJV)

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*



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# COMMENTARY – The Greatest Gift

- Concerning human beings, no other doctrine of faith is more important. It is the basis of the greatest gift
- The greatest gift – Love (**1 Corinthians 13**), is crucial to the execution of the gifts granted to us.

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# COMMENTARY – The Greatest Gift

- Our spiritual gifts, activities and ministries must not come at the expense of love
- Love also the gift that EVERYONE can exercise, but is often the hardest to employ

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# Commentary: Types of Love

**Eros** - Root of the word "erotic". It's the type of sensual, sexual love

**Philia** - Familial love found between siblings and family members, close friends and associates

**Agape** - Unconditional love. It is sacrificial because it gives but may not receive in kind. It's the love that defines covenants. It does not change with our emotions. It is the type of love that comes from God

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# COMMENTARY – The Greatest Gift

- True agape love becomes hard when we fail to realize the **VALUE** of every person, who is made in the **IMAGE** of God
- This should be the main reason we love people, not for what they can do for us, but because of their **INTRINSIC** value to the Creator
- Our inability to love on this basis has severe consequences

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# Jealousy & Envy

## ENVY

- COMES FROM PERCEIVED LACK
- The FEAR of feeling inadequate in comparison to others

## JEALOUSY

- COMES FROM PERCEIVED POSSESSION
- The FEAR of losing something you think you already have

- Material
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Position
- Admiration
- Affection
- Recognition

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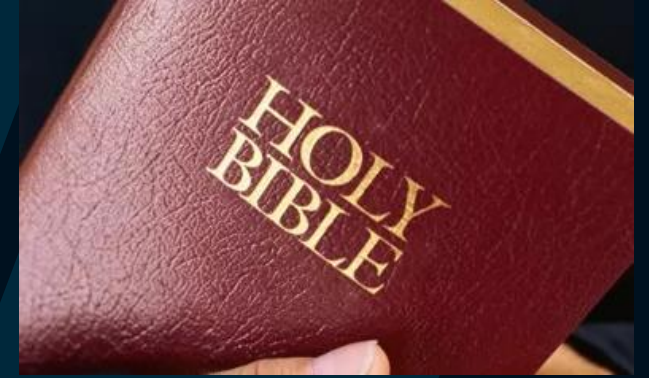
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# Lesson Text

Beware of Personal Favoritism

## James 2:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.



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# Scripture References



**Galatians 3:1-14; 19-25**

**The Purpose of the Law**

**Romans 14:1-13**

**The Law of Liberty**



# Church School Creed & Benediction

## CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow  
And we must help to make it so  
Every member a **Christian**  
Every Christian a **worker**  
Every worker **trained**  
A worker that **will not be ashamed**  
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

## BENEDICTION

We have come  
We have studied  
We have learned  
So until our next coming together  
To study God's word  
May His rich blessings reside with you  
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN