

The Royal Law

Text : **James 2: 8-13 ; Romans 13: 8-14**

S#1.
S#2.

A. The book of James is a tutorial on practical Christian living.

1. Why does God allow bad things to happen to His people ?
2. God will help us to understand why if we ask in faith without doubting.
3. In order to develop that faith we must incorporate God's word into our thinking.
4. When we have implanted the word, we will understand that God does not tempt.
5. Worship is important, but true religion is demonstrated by one's treatment of others.
 - a. It will govern the way one speaks to and speaks about others.
 - b. It will cause one to care for those who can't care for themselves.
 - c. It will motivate one to seek the will of God in all he does in his life.
6. Understanding the will of God will prevent one from favoritism based on externals.
7. Drawing close to God requires that one never look down on the poor and lowly.

B. With our lesson today we want to observe the following :

S#3.

1. There is a "Royal Law" which governs every true Christian's life.
2. Failure to obey this Royal Law is a rejection of the Law Giver.
3. The Royal Law reflects the will and the nature of God.
4. The Royal Law is God's eternal will for mankind.

I. There is a "Royal Law" which governs the Christian's life.

S#4.
S#5.

- A. **James 2: 8** – If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

B. What makes a law "royal ?"

1. Royal { *basilikos* } 1 of or belong to a king, kingly, royal, regal.
(*This is the word from which we get the word "basilica", church bldg.*)
2. Thus, any law given by a king is a royal law.
3. The royal law referred to by James was given by King Jesus.

C. Jesus is our King.

1. Jesus identified Himself as our King.
Mark 15: 1b-2 – Binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate. S#6.
 2 Pilate questioned Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
 And He answered him, "It is as you say."

2. By inspiration the Apostle Paul refers to Jesus as the Sovereign, King or Kings.

I Tim. 6: 13-15 – I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, **S#7.** and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which He will bring about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light,

3. By inspiration the Apostle John refers to Jesus and the King of Kings.

Rev. 17: 14 – These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will **S#8.** overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.

D. When one becomes a Christian he becomes a citizen of His kingdom. **S#9.**

1. **Phil. 3: 20** – For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. Being a citizen of the kingdom of Heaven makes one subject to Heaven's laws.

II. Failure to obey the Royal Law is a rejection of the Law Giver. **S#10.**

A. James explains that a failure to obey the Royal Law is sin. **S#11.**

1. **James 2: 9** – But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
2. Those who are prejudice or show partiality based on externals are law violators.
3. When we are quick to judge it is because we are slow to love.

B. Jesus Himself linked obedience to relationship with Him. **S#12.**

1. One who does not obey the laws of Jesus (His commandments) is not a disciple.
Luke 6: 46 – Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?
2. Jesus disavowed friendship with those who do not obey His law.
John 15: 14 – “You are My friends IF you do what I command you.”
3. Those who do not obey the Laws of Jesus will be disavowed in the judgment.
Matt. 7: 21-23 ... “And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.’”

C. Salvation is by grace through faith, but disobedience refutes faith. **S#13.**

1. **I John 2: 3-4** – By this we know that we have come to know Him, IF we keep His commandments. **4** The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

2. **I John 5: 2-4** – By this we know that we love the children of God, when we **S#14.**
 love God and observe His commandments. **3** For this is the love of
God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are
 not burdensome. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world;
 and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

III. The Royal Law reflects both the nature of God and the will of God. **S#15.**

A. The Royal Law requires that we love one another. **S#16.**

1. **James 2: 8** – If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture,
 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
2. **Mark 12: 31** ... Jesus commanded the very same thing : "love your neighbor"

B. In essence God IS love. (*Thus, the royal law says be like God.*)

1. God is infinite in all of His attributes; i.e., God is not partially anything.
2. God IS love.

I John 4: 7-10 – Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and **S#17.**
 everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** The one
 who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** By this
 the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only
 begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and
sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- a. God does not just do loving things, He IS love. It is His
- b. Since in nature and essence God is love, His every act reflects His love.
- c. Compare Satan : **Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature .. Jn 8:44**
3. You and I are created in God's image so we are expected to love as He loves. **S#18.**

C. Jesus commanded that love must be the identifying characteristic of a Christian.

1. **John 13: 34-35** – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another,
 even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By
 this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love
for one another.

2. Thus, Jesus taught that the bond between Christians is more important than
3. We've just seen that love is essential for one to have a relationship with God.

I John 4: 8 – The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **S#19.**

D. The one who loves others must have sufficient self-image to put them first.

1. **Phil. 2: 3** – Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of
 mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely
 look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

- a. If each just looks out for himself, he has only one guardian, but if each looks out for the others, each has several people looking out for him.
- b. This is not to say that we cannot look out for ourselves, but not just ourselves.
Phil. 2: 4 – do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- 2. If one does not have a healthy self-image, he cannot adequately love others. **S#20.**
 - a. **Matt. 19: 19** – ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself
 - b. The one who doesn't love himself has no standard by which to evaluate his love.
- 3. The one who does not have a health self-image does not know how to treat others.
Luke 6: 31 – Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.
- 4. The only competition between Christians is for each to try to out-love the other.
Rom. 12: 10 – Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor. (ESV)

IV. The Royal Law is God's eternal will for mankind.

S#21.

S#22.

A. Somehow people got the false impression that the God of the O.T. is different.

- 1. God was, IS and always will be love; His essence is unchangeable. (**Jude 25**)
- 2. **Heb. 13: 8** – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

B. The God of the Old Testament is a loving God.

S#23.

- 1. Many of the Psalms declare the glory of God's love for man.
 - a. **Psa. 63: 3** – Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.
 - b. **Psa. 33: 5** – He loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.
 - c. **Psa. 86: 15** – But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.
- 2. God declared His love to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
Exod. 34: 6-7a – Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The **S#24.**
Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and
abounding in lovingkindness and truth; **7** who keeps lovingkindness
for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He
will by no means leave the guilty unpunished,"
- 3. God affirmed His love through the prophets. **S#25.**
Jer. 31: 3 – The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved
you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you
with lovingkindness. (cf. – Zeph. 3: 17, Isa. 54: 10)

C. Jesus declared that love has always been / will always be God's will for mankind.

1. **Matt. 22: 36-40** – Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" S#26.
³⁷ And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ " On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
 - a. **Deut. 6: 5** ... Love God
 - b. **Lev. 19: 18** ... Love your neighbor
2. These two Old Testament commands are the foundation of the whole bible.
 - a. **Vs. 40** ... Jesus declared this to be true :
 - b. The inspired Apostle declared this to be true :
Gal. 5: 14 – For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, S#27.
 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

CONCLUSION :

- A. The Apostle Peter repeated the Royal Law as a command to all Christians. S#28.
I Pet. 1: 22 – Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, ferently love one another from the heart, S#29.
- B. The Apostle Paul taught us that we owe a debt of love that cannot be paid off. S#30.
Rom. 13: 8 – Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.
- C. We are growing in love, but we must not become complacent. S#30.
I Thes. 4: 9-10 – Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,
- D. Let us be challenged. There are ways we can grow in love : S#31.
 1. Make sure no one is left out.
 2. Make sure love is expressed.
 3. Find creative ways to demonstrate love.
 4. Increase the time we spend together.

INVITATION : Have you expressed your love to God ? S#32.

S#33. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 2: 8-13**

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. **11** For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Romans 13: 8-14

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. **9** For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. **12** The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. **13** Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.