



ECO: Book of James
1 credit hour
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I. Course Description

The book of James is a beloved letter of sage wisdom to Christian believers. Its big theme revolves around not just hearing the word of God, but fostering an active, loving, whole-hearted Christian life in response to the word of God. The book deals with social conflicts and spiritual factions in the church, calling believers to rebuke worldliness and seek God's wisdom as they face various trials. Our course will explore the overall structure, literary and background features of the book. We will engage in a thoughtful exposition of the text in full, focusing on main themes, key verses and issues of interpretation, with an aim toward personal application, reflection and transformation for life.

II. Learning Outcomes

A. Primary Student Outcomes | Upon completion of this course, you will...

1. Be transformed by the Spirit of God through the Word of God in your walk with Christ.
2. Understand the overall structure, genre, thought development and content of James.

B. Learning Outcomes | Upon completion of this course, you will...

Cognitive (Head)

1. Understand the literary features of James.
2. Consider the book's audience, genre and question of authorship.
3. Grasp the main themes and teaching points of the book.

Affective (Heart)

4. Consider the power of your words in community (3:1-12).
5. Assess your own tendencies to show favoritism (2:1-13).
6. Be encouraged to pursue a vibrant life of prayer (5:13-18).

Conative (Hands)

7. Learn resilience for facing trials (1:2-18).
8. Be challenged regarding your practical Christian living (1:19-27).
9. Grow a more integrated life of faith and love (2:14-26).

III. ECO Course Outline

1. Introduction & Background to the Epistle of James
 - 1.1. Course Introduction, Learning Objectives, etc.
 - 1.2. Background: Occasion, Audience, Date & Authorship
 - 1.3. Literary Genre & Style
 - 1.4. Doctrinal Overview

2. Greeting & Wisdom for Trials (James 1:1-18)
 - 2.1. Joy in trials (1:2-4).
 - 2.2. Wisdom from God for trials (1:5-8)
 - 2.3. The rich and poor before God (1:9-11)
 - 2.4. Endurance and temptation (1:12-18)

3. Doing, Not Just Hearing the Word (James 1:19-2:26).
 - 3.1. Responding to God's word (1:19-27).
 - 3.2. Avoiding favouritism (2:1-13).
 - 3.3. Unproductive faith (2:14-20).
 - 3.4. Saving faith (2:21-26).

4. Discipline & Humility (James 3:1-4:17)
 - 4.1. Discipline in speech (3:1-12).
 - 4.2. Discipline in attitude (3:12-18).
 - 4.3. Drawing near to God (4:1-12).
 - 4.4. Humility and pride (4:10-5:6).

5. A Faithful Life (James 5:7-20) & Conclusion
 - 5.1. Faithful suffering (5:7-12).
 - 5.2. Faithful prayer (5:13-20).
 - 5.3. James' wisdom for today.
 - 5.4. Reflection and course conclusion.

Time breakdown:

Assignments for 1 credit (30 hours) ECO course:	Hours	%
Watch course video content	5	25%
Complete all quizzes and exams	5	25%
Respond to discussion questions and participate in forum interaction (minimum of 6 forum entries per lesson: one response to each video, and two additional 'reply responses' to someone else's post per lesson) = 30 submissions total.	20	50%
Total:	30	100%

Additional assignments for future accredited 3 credit (95+ hours):	Hours	%
All ECO 1 credit requirements	30	30%
10 page exegetical research paper on a passage from James.	35	40%
Badge assignment on the book of James	30	30%
Total:	95	100%

Required Texts:

The Holy Bible.

Students should choose one of the following texts to assist with their understanding of the text, forum interaction, and badge assignment:

Motyer, J. Alec. *The Message of James*. Revised edition. The Bible Speaks Today Series. IVP Academic, 2021. <https://www.ivpress.com/the-message-of-james>

Stulac, George M. *James*. The IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Volume 16. IVP Academic, 2010. <https://www.ivpress.com/the-message-of-james>