

RESTORING THOSE WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE TRUTH

(James 5:19-20)

I. THE JUDGMENT COMING UPON THE OPPRESSIVE RICH (5:1-6)

II. THE APPEAL TO BE PATIENT IN SUFFERING (5:7-12)

III. THE APPEAL TO PRAY AND RELY ON GOD BY FAITH (5:13-18)

IV. THE APPEAL TO RESTORE AN ERRING FELLOW BELIEVER (5:19-20)

A. The Restoration and the Results of a Believer Who Has Stumbled (5:19-20)

1. James concluded this major section and his entire epistle, by explaining how a brother who had erred could return to _____ with God, and could resume living by _____. (v. 19a)
 - a. His closing address “*brethren*” refers to _____. (James 1:2, 16, 19; 2:1, 5, 14; 3:1, 10, 12; 4:11; 5:7, 9, 10, 12)
 - b. The person in question is “*anyone _____ you*”, i.e., in your Christian fellowship.

2. The believer who is to be _____ had _____ (*planao*) “*from the truth*” of God’s Word. (v. 19b, cf. James 1:18; 3:14-16)

* Are Christians capable of wandering off course from time to time? (Luke 22:31-32; Gal. 5:7-9; Heb. 2:1; 1 Pet. 2:25)

3. A church family has a responsibility to reach out to the Christian who has strayed to bring him/her back, not for judgment but for _____ and _____. (v. 19c, cf. Gal. 6:1-2)

4. The Christian who is willing to turn an erring brother around ought to recognize that he accomplishes two amazing results in his heroic efforts (v. 20)...

a. *“will save a soul from death...”*

1) 2nd Tense Salvation is in view, being saved from the potential _____ and the _____ of sin in one’s life. (James 1:21; 1 Tim. 4:15-16; Heb. 3:12-13)

2) The “_____ unto _____” could also be in view. (1 Cor. 11:29-30; 1 John 5:16-17)

b. *“...and cover a multitude of sins.”*

1) Love for one another can overlook slights and _____ against us in the interest to restore a _____ back to fellowship. (1 Pet. 4:7-8)

2) The rescue action done in agape love can cover the sins of the _____, not the restorer.

B. Some Closing Observations from this Passage and the Epistle

1. The _____ ending of this letter is consistent with James’ _____ style with encouraging and exhorting his readers right up to the very last sentence.
2. Throughout this epistle, James has called for a faith that is _____ and _____, that is lived out in practical _____, which honors the Lord and leads to spiritual maturity.
3. These last two verses remind us of the theme of the entire epistle, a call to _____ to not stray far from the _____, and to have a deep _____ for the one another’s.