
Mission 119 Ministries

ENDURING STORMS: JAMES 1:19-21

Hutson Smelley

www.sermonaudio.com/forestbranch

KEY VERSES

James 1:¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Organization of James

Quick to Listen
(1:21-2:26)

Slow to Speak
(3:1-18)

Slow to Wrath
(4:1-5:6)

(1) Humbly receive God's Word which is (2) able to save your soul-life (1:21)

A good listener to God's Word humbly receives it and becomes a doer of God's Word (1:22-2:8)

God's Word humbly received and lived out saves your soul-life at the judgment / bema (2:9-26)

VERSES ABOUT BEMA

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- “judgment seat” is Greek βῆμα (bema)
 - the concept is PERVASIVE in the NT in references to inheritance, rewards, rest, account, and more
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VERSES ABOUT BEMA

Philippians 4:¹⁵ And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit, that is increasing to your account.

VERSES ABOUT BEMA

1 Corinthians 3:¹⁰ According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴ If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.

NOTES ABOUT SAVE

The word save is the Greek verb σώζω (sōzō) and means to deliver and context must determine from what someone is being saved or delivered. Because in a church context we tend to associate the words "save" and "saved" with being saved from the penalty of sin or being saved from hell, this meaning is often carelessly assumed when people read a verse like James 1:21 that uses the term save . But in fact, this Greek verb, and the related noun σωτηρία (soteria), more often than not do not concern being delivered from the penalty of sin or hell.

"SAVE" AND "SALVATION"

- Delivered from the penalty of sin (Acts 16:30-31: "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.") (sōzō)
 - Delivered from illness (Mark 5:25-34: "thy faith hath made thee whole") (sōzō)
 - Delivered from sleep (John 11:12: "if he [Lazarus] sleep, he shall do well [wake up]") (sōzō)
 - Delivered from temporal judgment (Acts 2:40: "save yourselves from this untoward generation [of Israel]") (sōzō)
 - Deliverance from Egypt (Acts 7:25: "that God by his hand would deliver them") (soteria)
 - Delivered from drowning (Acts 27:20, 31: "except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved") (sōzō)
 - Delivered from prison (Philippians 1:19: "this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer") (soteria)
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NOTES ABOUT "SOUL"

David Anderson explains that there are four New Testament uses of "soul" but it rarely refers to the immaterial aspect of man that can go to heaven or hell:

The word *psychē* is used in four primary ways in the NT. Only a handful of the 104 uses refer to the immaterial part of man, which enjoys heaven or suffers in hell. Most of the time, the word refers either to our time on earth (our life) or to our inner self as a unique combination of mind (with one *psychē* striving together-Phil. 2:17), emotions (Mk 14:34-my *psychē* is exceedingly sorrowful), and will (doing the will of God from the *psychē*).

Harry Leafe rightly explains that in the context of James 1:21, *psuchē* "describes the whole of a person's life" and "can be defined as the total temporal expression of human life."

JC ON SAVING THE SOUL-LIFE

Matthew 16:²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. ²⁶ For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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