

HOMILETIC EXAMINATION OF JAMES 2:1-7

This lesson gives a five-point homiletic Greek examination of James 2:1-7.

1. James 2:1 gives the main idea of the passage.

It is given by negative imperative (me echo) (p.a.impv.2pl) “you are not holding on to the faith our glorious Lord Jesus Christ when practicing partiality”.

The Faith cycle and mental attitude sins are mutual exclusives.

(James 2:1) “My brethren, pay no servile regard to people [show no prejudice, no partiality]. Do not [attempt to] hold and practice the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory [together with snobbery]!
(Amplified Bible)

2. James 2:2 introduced this subject with a unique 3rd Class Condition “if” (and it’s true) clause.

- The protasis (if clause) consist of James 2:2-3.
- The apodosis (then clause) consists of James 2:4-7
 - with four rhetorical questions expecting YES answers.

3. This 3rd Class Condition (if) has a series of five aorist active subjunctives in James 2:2-3

- James 2:2 has two
- James 2:3 has three

James illustrates a common occurrence in the Jewish synagogue among Jewish believers.

1 st	rich man comes	(eiserchomai)	visitor
2 nd	poor man comes	(eiserchomai)	visitor
3 rd	you have respect (epiblepo) for rich man – respecter of persons		
4 th	You say (lego) to rich man		
5 th	You say (lego) to poor man		

Did you note that all five were in the protasis (if)? (James 2:2-3)

Did you wonder about the apodosis (then)? It is in (James 2:4-7) with four rhetorical questions expecting YES answers.

4. James 2:4-7 contains the 3rd Class Condition apodosis (then).

It consists of four rhetorical questions expecting YES answers. James is encouraging these believers to see the error of their ways but doesn’t give them the doctrinal spiritual solution.

(James 2:4) have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? (YES)

(James 2:5) Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (YES)

(James 2:6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? (YES)

(James 2:7) Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? (YES)

NOTE: In your Greek text, the Greek question mark looks like an English semi-colon (;).

5. There are five imperatives (commands) in James 2:1-7.

(James 2:1) “do not hold (me echo) (present active imperative, 2nd person plural) – my brethren partiality is not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ -

(James 2:3)

- “sit (kathemai) (present middle imperative, 2nd person singular) [rich]
- “stand (histemi) (aorist active imperative, 2nd person singular) [poor]
- “or sit (kathemai) (present middle imperative, 2nd person singular) [poor]

(James 2:5) “listen (akouo) (aorist active imperative, 2nd person plural) [my beloved brethren]

- Remember James 2:4-7 contains four rhetorical questions expecting YES answers.
- Note the statement made amidst the questions in James 2:6 – “But you have dishonored (atimazo) (aorist active indicative, 2nd person plural) [the poor man]