

Big Idea: *The book of James is written to Christians undergoing severe trials, including persecution, injustice, and temptation. Appropriately, James begins and ends with prayer (asking of God in 1:5-6, and prayers for the afflicted in 5:13-18).*

The end of the book is clearly about prayer (easy enough), but the specifics are unusual: including prayer by the elders to save the sick, anointing with oil, etc. What is James talking about? How do we interpret and apply these passages?

I. Introduction

Why is this passage difficult to interpret and apply?

II. Practice and Principles of Interpretation – “SAVED” or “SALVATION”

Mt 8:24–25 Mt 9:21–22 Acts 2:40 2 Tim 1:8-9 Rom. 9:27 Mark 8:34-35

For proper interpretation, what must we ask about the word “saved”?

What are the possible meanings of the word “saved”? Why is this important?

III. “If any among you sick?”

James 5:14 ff

What is the previous context of James?

James 1:3-5, etc.

What can the word “sick” mean? What does it mean here in James? Why?

What does it mean to “anoint with oil”? How do we apply it?

James 5:14

Should we pray for physical sickness? Is there a promise of healing?

James 5:15

Should we pray for spiritual weakness? Is there a promise of healing?

James 5:15