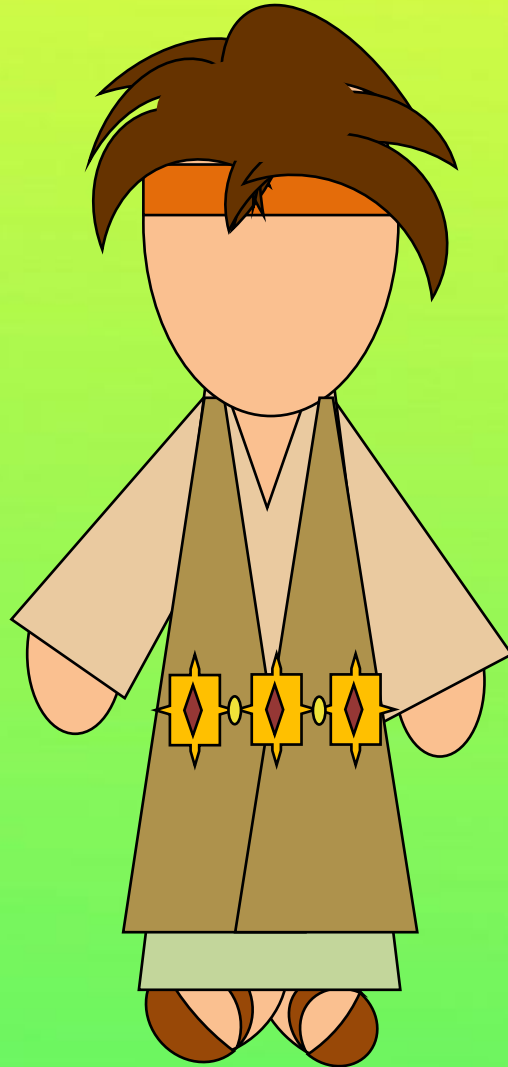
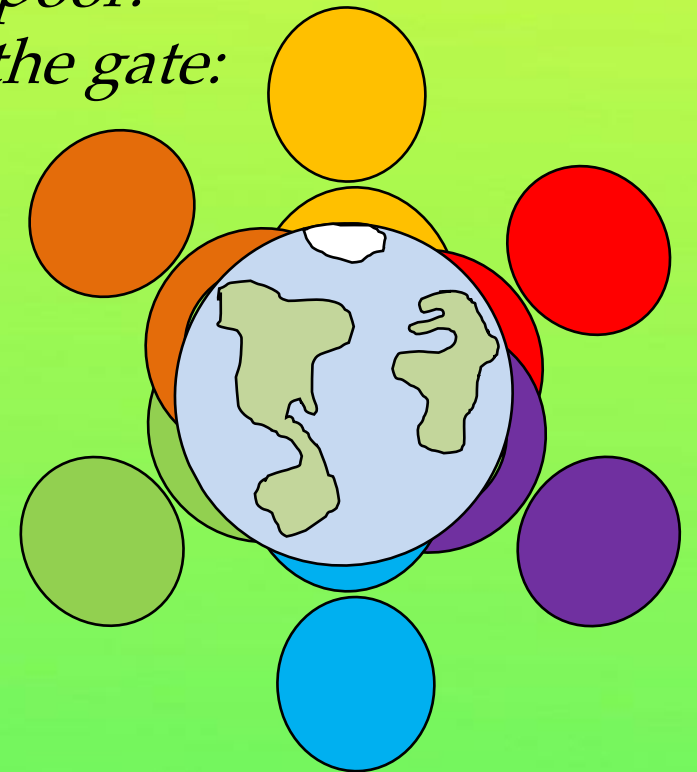


# For Richer and Poorer

## James 2



*Rob not the poor, because he is poor:  
neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:  
Proverbs 22:22*



# Have Respect To Persons

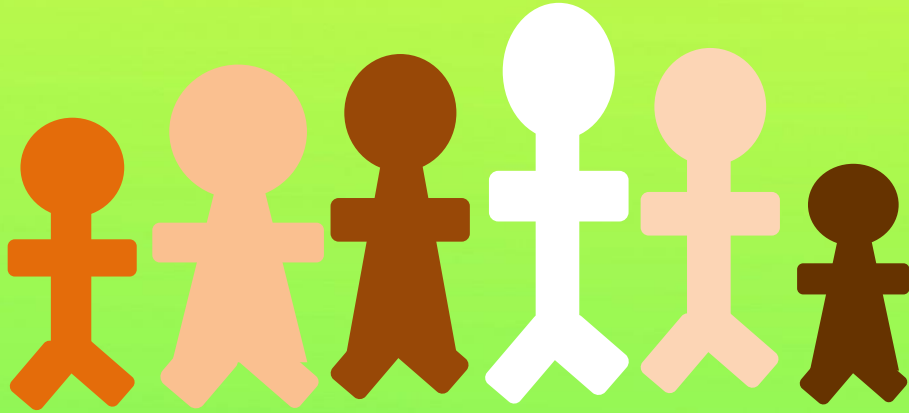
To show favoritism for one person or a group of people while mistreating others because of their circumstances or characteristics.



James condemned such biased treatment of others, specifically discrimination against the poor in favor of the rich.

# Discrimination

Other scriptures teach that followers of Christ should not discriminate on the basis of skin color, social standing, gender, or nationality, education or economic standing, clothing or health, age or religious affiliation.



*And thus, in their prosperous circumstances, they did not send away any who were naked, or that were hungry, or that were athirst, or that were sick, or that had not been nourished; and they did not set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who stood in need.*

*Alma 1:30*

By living in this way, we become more like our Heavenly Father, who “is no respecter of persons.”



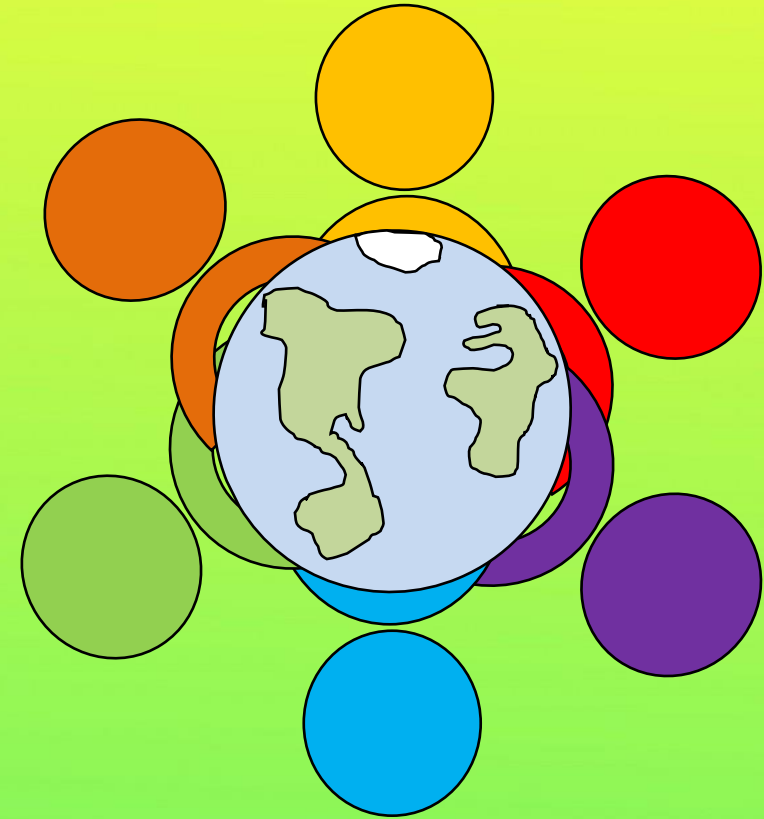
“We must never forget that we live in a world of great diversity.

The people of the earth are all our Father’s children and are of many and varied religious persuasions.

We must cultivate tolerance and appreciation and respect one another.

We have differences of doctrine.

This need not bring about animosity or any kind of holier-than-thou attitude.”



*Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.*

*Leviticus 19:18*

# To The Rich and To the Poor

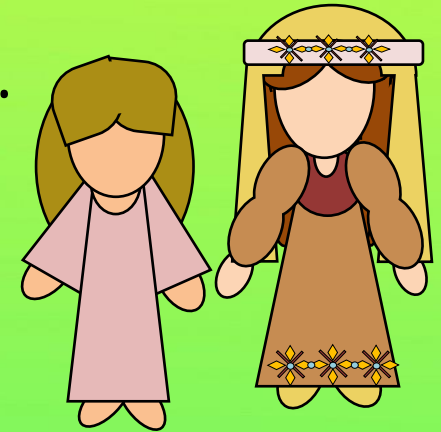
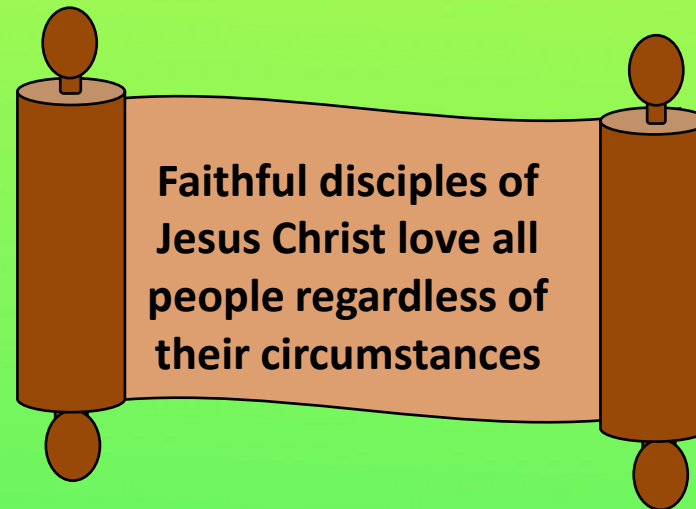
Royal = belonging to a king

James wanted his readers to treat all people, both rich and poor, with charity.

To fulfill the “Royal Law”



Those who keep “the royal law” love everyone and avoid showing favoritism.



# The Whole Law



First and second commandments:  
Love the Lord Thy God.  
Love thy neighbor as thyself.



“There needs to be full obedience to the whole gospel plan to obtain a fulness of eternal lives and glory,...

So often we are deceived by thinking that some divine laws are not too significant and to break them is no deterrent to a fulness of eternal joy.”

*'But no man is possessor of all things except he be purified and cleansed from all sin. And if ye are purified and cleansed from all sin, ye shall ask whatsoever you will in the name of Jesus and it shall be done.'* (DC 50:28-29.)"

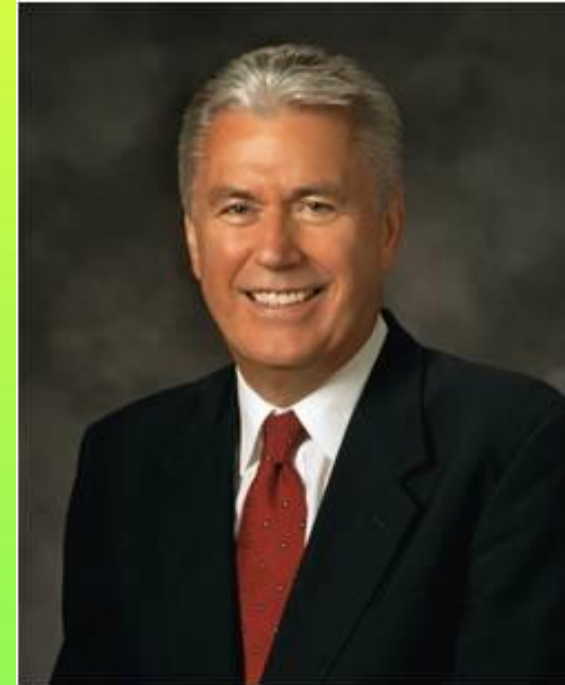
“All is not lost.

“The grace of God is our great and everlasting hope.

“Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the plan of mercy appeases the demands of justice and [brings] about means unto men that they may have faith unto repentance’.

“Our sins, though they may be as scarlet, can become white as snow.

“Because our beloved Savior ‘gave himself a ransom for all,’ an entrance into His everlasting kingdom is provided unto us.”



# Faith Without Works Is Dead

Some people have misunderstood faith to be simply a verbal expression of belief.



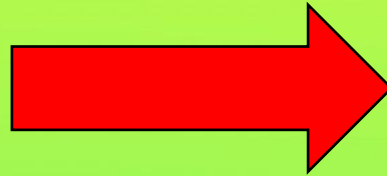
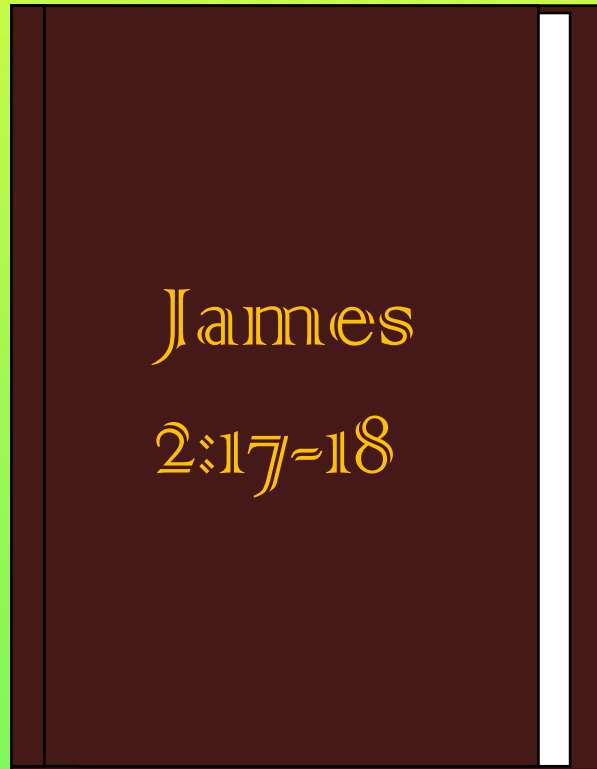
Peter Paul Rubens

James used the term *works* differently than the way the Apostle Paul had used it. When Paul used the term *works*, he referred to the works of the law of Moses.

When James used the term *works*, he referred to acts of devotion or works of righteousness.



# Doctrinal Mastery



Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

“True faith is focused in and on the Lord Jesus Christ and always leads to righteous action. ...

Action alone is not faith in the Savior, but acting in accordance with correct principles is a central component of faith.”



# Abraham

Both James and Paul cited the Old Testament prophet Abraham as an important example of faith and good works. Abraham's willingness to carry out the command to offer up Isaac was a validation of his faith in God.



# Rahab

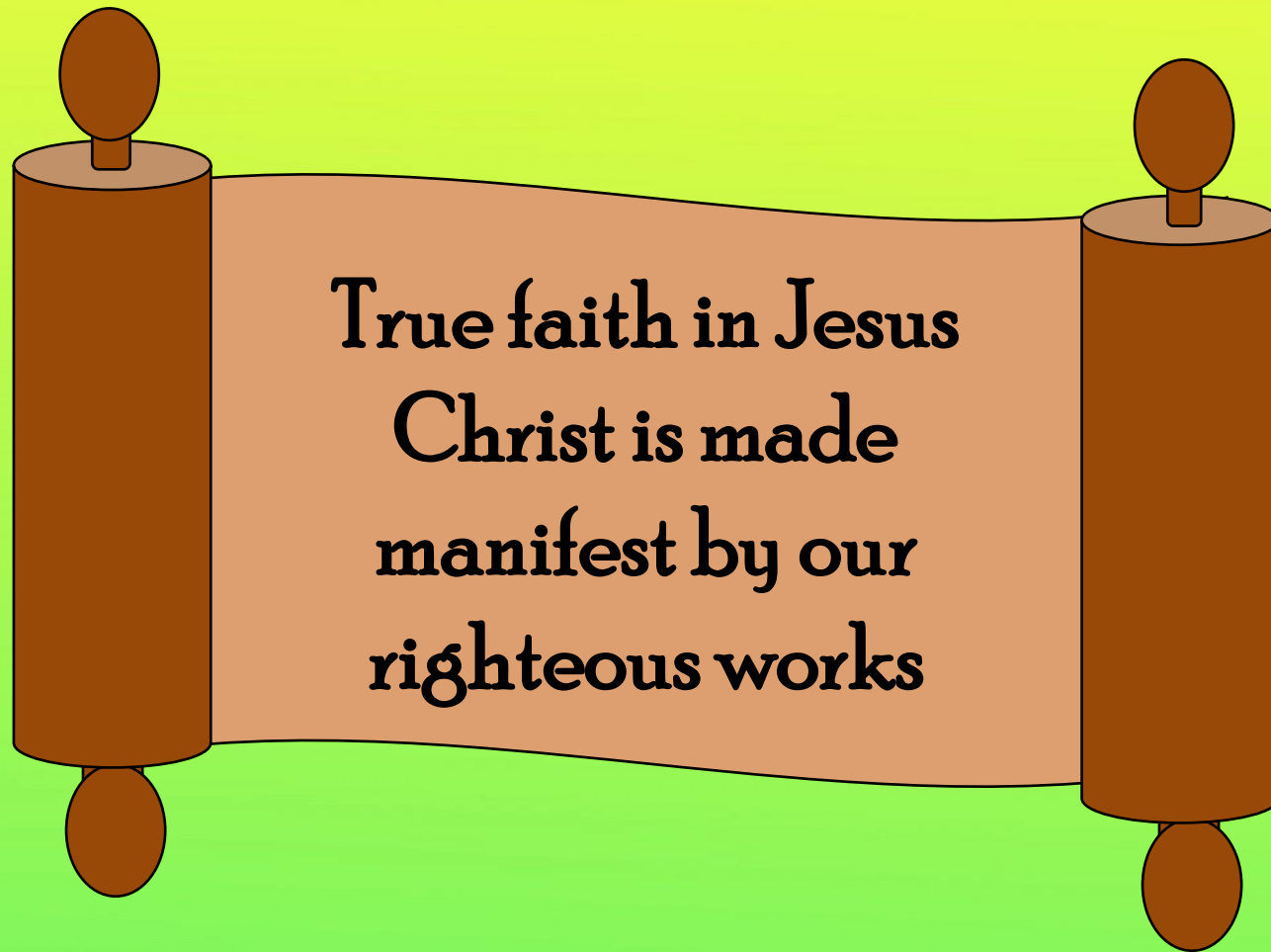
The harlot Rahab also demonstrated her faith through her actions.

She was an inhabitant of Jericho at the time the armies of Israel, under Joshua's leadership, approached the promised land.



Joshua sent two men into Jericho to spy out the strength of the city. Rahab took the spies in, even hiding them when the king sought for them. Then she helped them to escape safely from the city.

For her actions, she and her family were spared when the rest of Jericho was destroyed, and she dwelt in Israel for the remainder of her life.



**True faith in Jesus  
Christ is made  
manifest by our  
righteous works**

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #306 *God's Daily Prayer*

*Videos:*

**The Civility Experiment** (3:55)

**Faith and Works** (8:25)

The Just Shall Live by Faith (12:25).



1. New Testament Institute Student Manual Chapter 50
2. President Gordon B. Hinckley ("The Work Moves Forward," *Ensign*, May 1999, 5).
3. Delbert L. Stapley *Conference Report, April 1961*, Afternoon Meeting 65
4. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf ("The Gift of Grace," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 108).
5. Elder David A. Bednar ("Ask in Faith," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2008, 95).

LETTER TO THE HEBREWS—BELIEVED WRITTEN BY PAUL, (HEBREWS)	
Trials Are a Privilege—Ask God for Wisdom	1:1–7
God Tempts No One to Do Wrong	1:8–18
“Be Ye Doers of the Word”	1:19–27
We Commit Sin If We Show Favoritism	2:1–9
The Entire Law Must Be Kept	2:10–13
“Faith Without Works Is Dead”	2:14–26
Controlled Language Aids Perfection	3:1–12
Envy and Strife Are of Evil	3:13–18
The Source of War and Strife	4:1–3
Identifying the Enemies of God	4:4–6
Becoming a Friend of God	4:7–12
What Is Sin?	4:13–17
A Warning for the Wealthy	5:1–6
Await the Lord’s Coming with Patience	5:7–11
Elders Anoint and Heal the Sick	5:12–20

**The Royal Law James 2:8:**  
The 'royal law' has a brother called "the golden rule." These two concepts teach us how to treat our neighbor in every circumstance. Stephen E. Robinson noted, "there is...one particular principle that contains within it all the other principles. James calls this principle 'the royal law' (James 2:8), and Paul calls it 'a more excellent way' (1 Corinthians 12:31). To me it's the difference between trying to keep track of a thousand individual rules, like a thousand little marbles rolling around on a tabletop, and trying to follow one overriding principle, like putting all the marbles into a bag where they can be handled as a single object. In a bag all the marbles are still there, but you only have to keep track of one thing instead of a thousand. In the same way, one principle contains a thousand rules." (Stephen E. Robinson, *Following Christ: The Parable of the Divers and More Good News* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1995], 133 - 134.)

**The Whole Law James 2:10:**  
"James did not mean that a man who stole was guilty of murder, or that one who lied was guilty of unchastity. He was endeavoring to impress upon the minds of the members that the kingdom of God is *one*. Its laws are perfect. No unclean person can enter there. Since it is a perfect kingdom, its laws must be obeyed. There can be no disunity, no opposition in that kingdom. Being an immortal kingdom with laws that have been proved through the eternities, they are perfect, therefore there is no room for varied opinions in relation to its government, such as we find in human man-made governments. These laws cannot be changed... They are based on justice and mercy with the perfect love of God. Therefore each who enters the kingdom must of his own free will accept all of the laws and be obedient to them, finding himself in complete accord with all. Anything short of this would cause confusion. Therefore the words of James are true. Unless a man can abide strictly in complete accord, he cannot enter there, and in the words of James, he is guilty of all." President Joseph Fielding Smith (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, 5 vols. [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957-1966], 3: 26.)

**Breaking a commandment James 2:10:**  
When we are breaking or failing to keep one of God's commandments, we are in Satan's territory; and we become prey to impressions that spring from the other region." (*The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, edited by Clyde J. Williams [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996], 108)