

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH
'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' – YEAR OF THE
BIBLE
BRIEF GUIDE TO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
LETTER OF JAMES



After the letters of Paul, are *printed seven letters to all Christians.*

Between these two groups comes *the Letter to the Hebrews*, which at one time was thought to be by Paul. These letters *are sometimes called the “catholic” epistles because they are addressed to the*

whole Church (“catholic” means “everywhere, all over the world”).

Each of these except the first, attributed to James the brother of the Lord, is claimed as written by one of the 12 disciples. In each case this attribution has been questioned, but they have

been accepted as part of the normative body of scripture on which the Christian Church is built. It was a tradition within Judaism on which the Christian Church is built. It was a tradition within Judaism to attribute a work to an important figure of the past; this was a claim that it was what the figure would have said in the circumstances.

The Letter of James is a fine example of Christian wisdom writing, modeled on the Jewish wisdom literature. In the knowledge that all true wisdom comes from God, and using a rich stock of Hellenistic imagery, it offers a series of neat aphorisms about true Christian behavior. It is essentially **a practical rather than a theoretical wisdom.** *There is special concern for the poor, for control of the tongue, for perseverance, and for prayer.*

(from *The Bible – A Reader’s Guide*, by Henry Wansborough)

Now read for example James chapter 2

For previous leaflets visit www.douaiparish.org.uk, or contact the Parish Office.