

Wednesday Night Class

Jan-Feb 2021 • Dahlonega Church of Christ

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JAMES

JJAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience;

But let patience have *her* perfect end, that ye may be perfect and lacking nothing.

If any lack wisdom, let him ask of God liberally, and

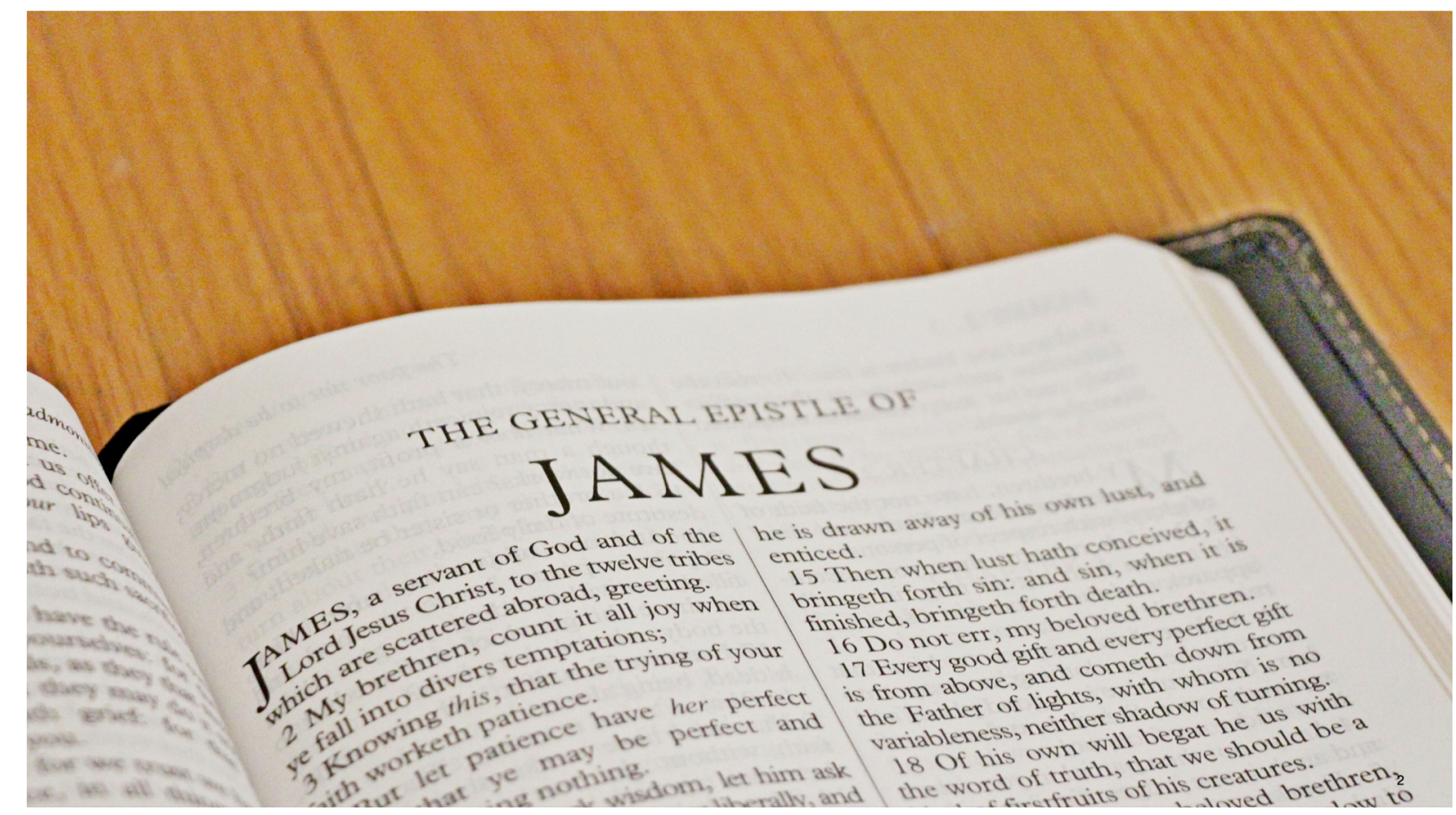
he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

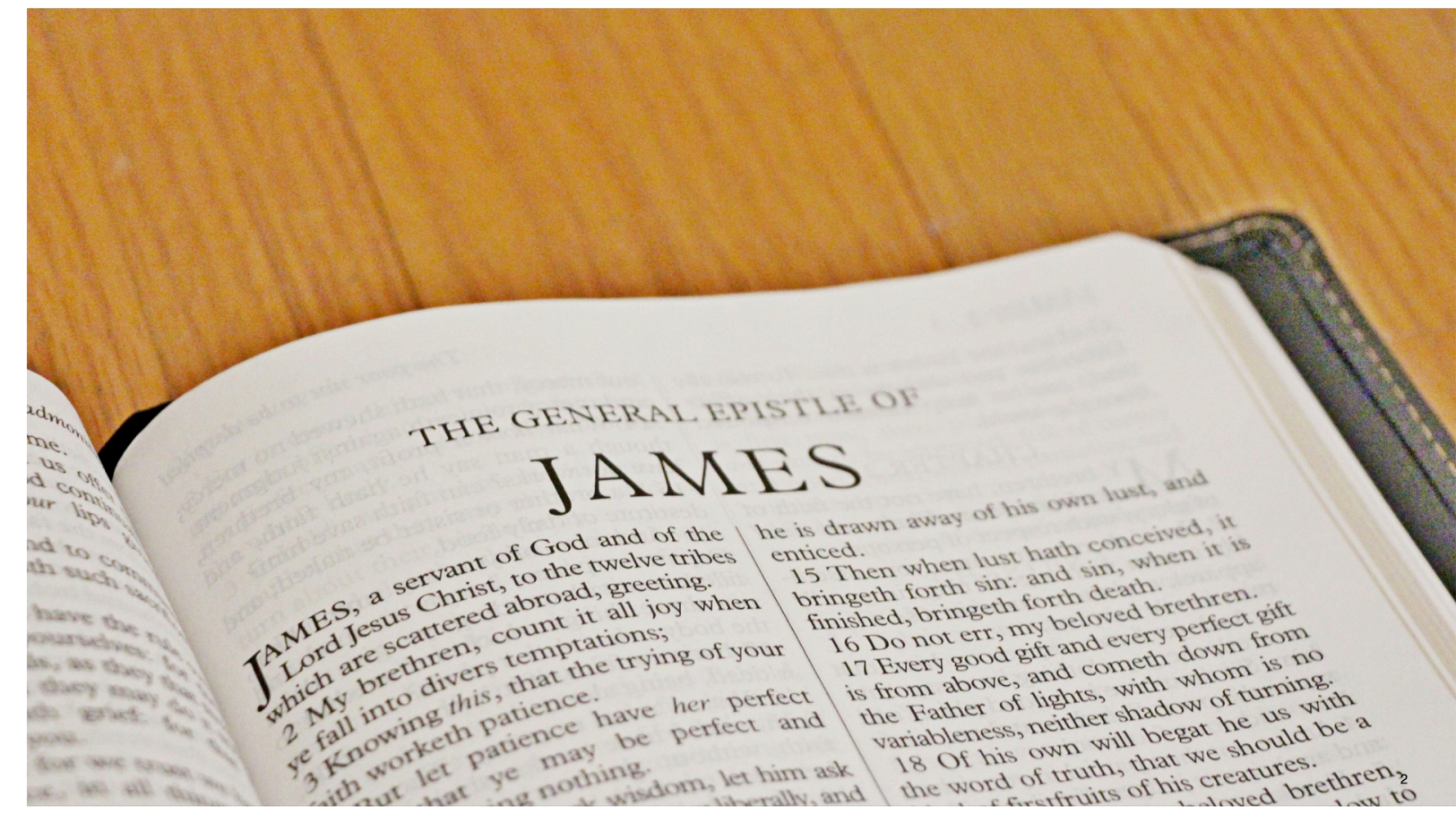
My beloved brethren, be slow to



Studies In James - 02/10/2021

James 1 - General Outline

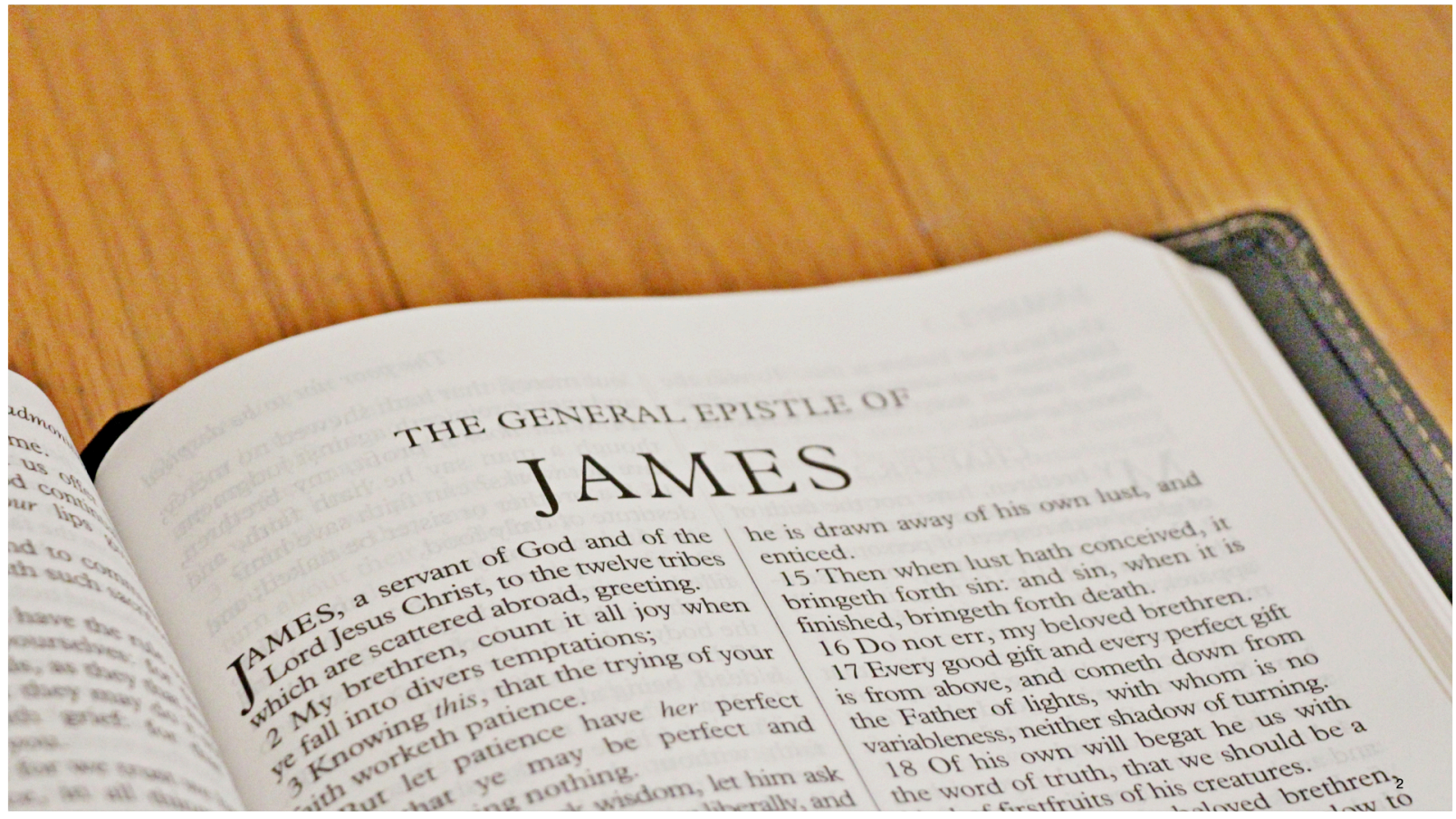
- **1.1** • Author, recipients, greetings
- **1.2-8** - The positive value of trials
- **1.9-11** - Humility over hubris
- **1.12-15** - **The blessings of temptation**
- **1.16-18** - God's good gifts generously graces us
- **1.19-20** - Graced by God: we must be patient as God is patient
- **1.21** - Graced by God: in concert with & saved by his will/word, we avoid sin
- **1.22-25** - Graced by God: we not only hear God's word, we obey it
- **1.26-27** - Graced by God: we must not only think right, we must act right



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James 1

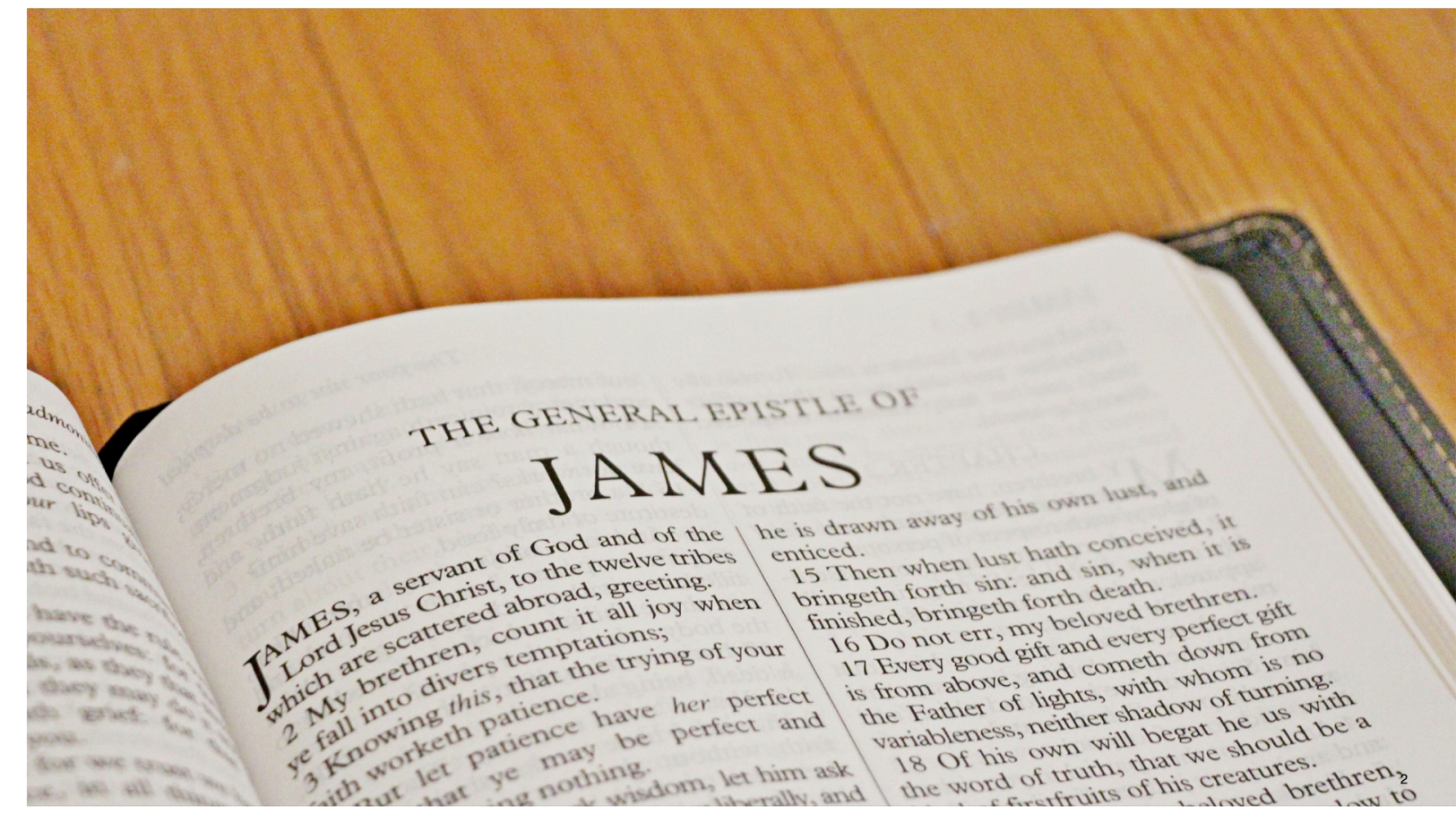
- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - The text says “blessed is the man who **endures** temptation”
 - It does **not say** “blessed is the man who is tempted”
 - The point:
 - **Every one** is tempted
 - But **not every one endures** temptation
 - What’s the difference?
 - Endures (NKJV) =’s “remains steadfast under trial” (ESV) • “perseveres under trial” (NASB, NAS95, NIV) • “remains faithful under trials” (TEV)



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James 1

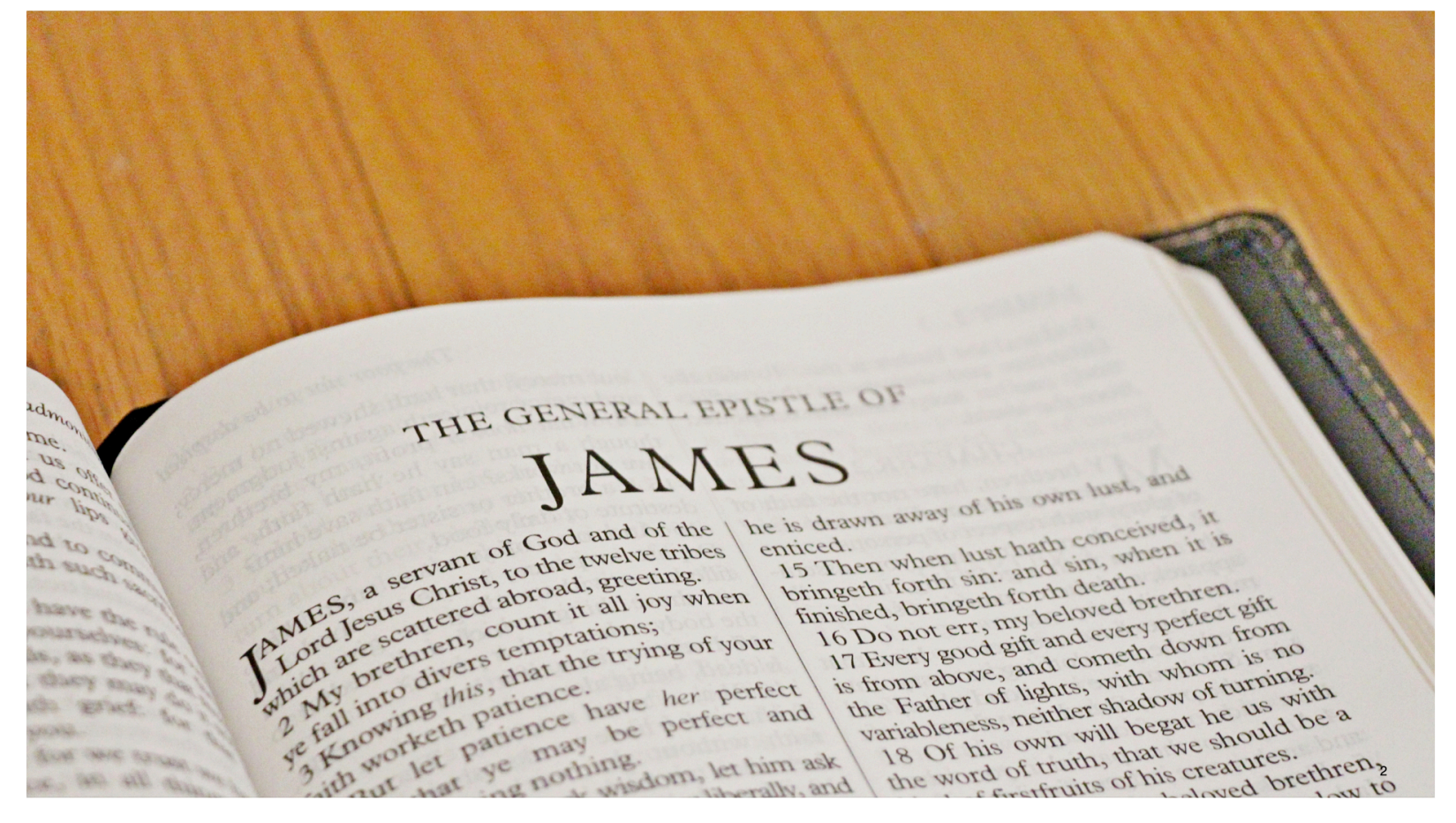
- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - Endurance demands ...
 - Being “approved” (NASB, NKJV) • “stood the test” (ESV, CSB17) • “he is tried” (KJV) • “undergoes testing” (BBE) • “remain faithful under trials, because when they succeeded in passing such a test” (TEV)
 - “Happy is the man who can withstand the test, for **there is none** whom God **does not prove**” • GNT Key
- Temptation ...
 - **All succumb** at some point • But **not all succumb** at every point



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James 1

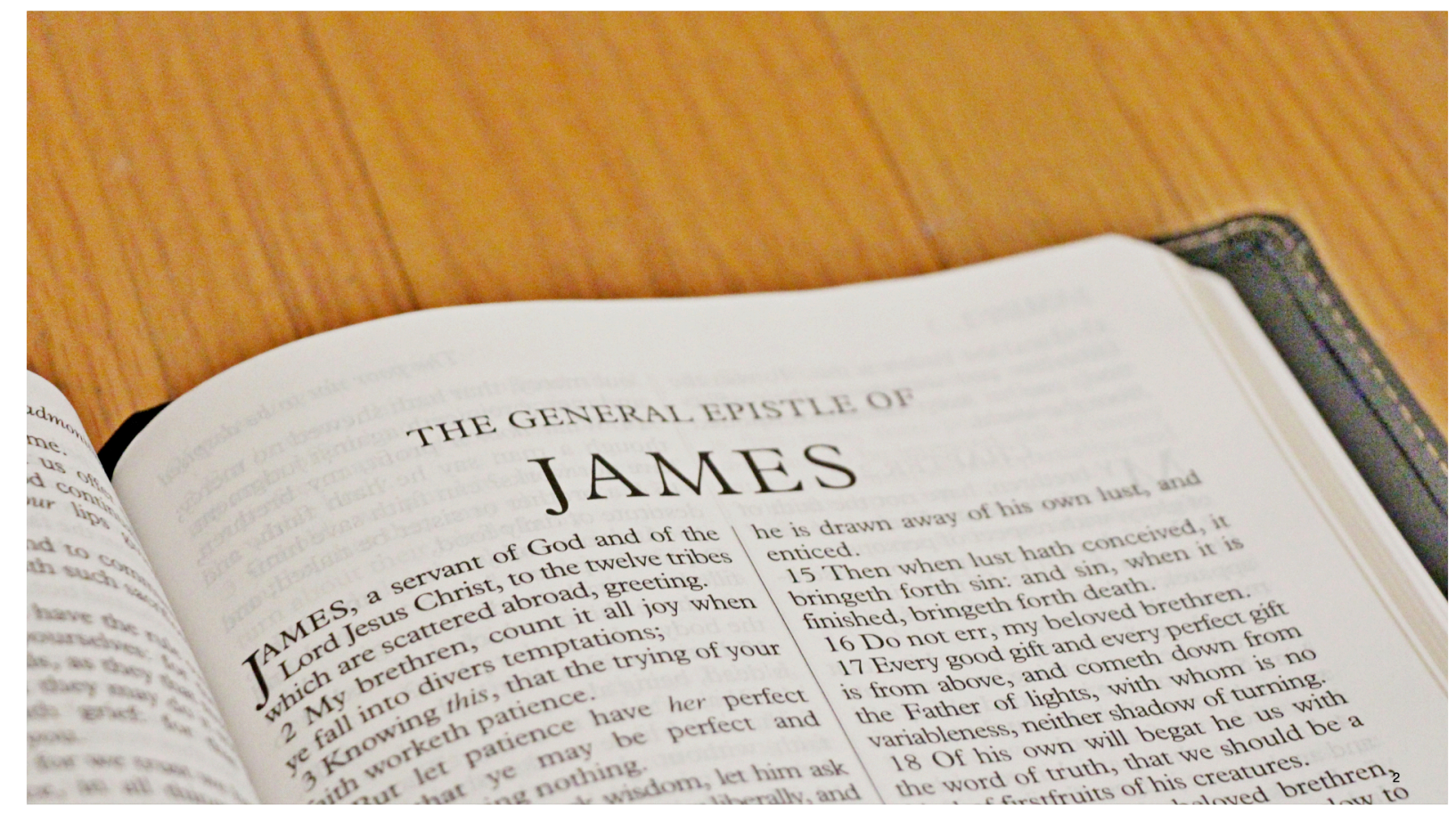
- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - Temptation ...
 - **All succumb** at some point • But **not all succumb** at every point
 - **All** have sinned and fall short of God's glory **Rom 3.20ff, esp 23**
 - But all sinners can be justified — freely — by God's grace in Christ **Rom 3.24**
 - James addresses that same general theme:
 - We **all** sin
 - And we **all** can be justified
 - But from a **different** perspective



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James 1

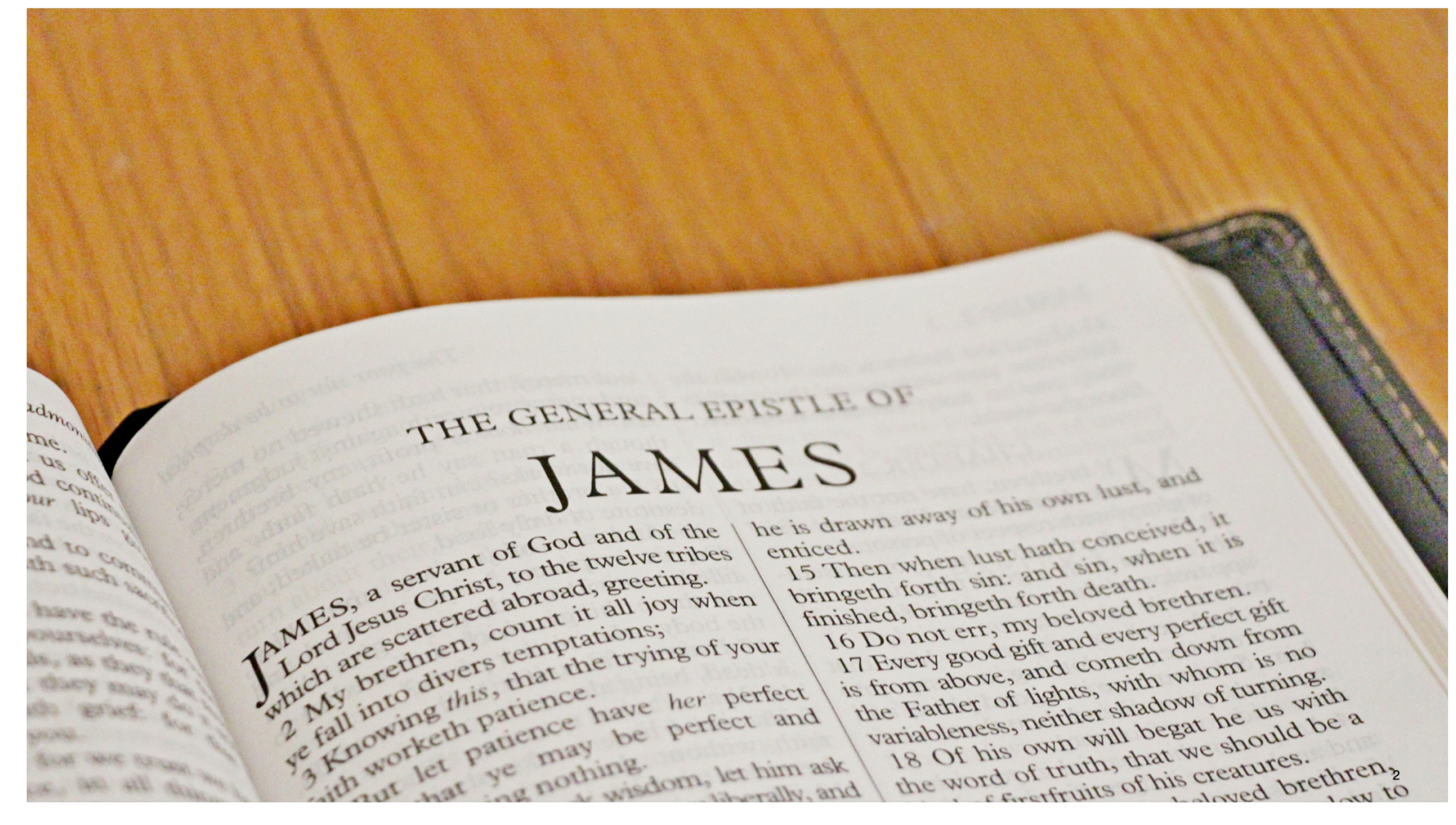
- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - Romans accentuates free justification by grace in Christ **Rom 3.24**
 - Much, but not all of Romans, addresses **initial** justification
 - James centers on “the man who **endures** temptation” **James 1.12**
 - James does **not** discount how/why/when we are **first** justified ...
 - But in this immediate setting, he addresses **ongoing** justification
 - Does that mean that initial and ongoing justification are at odds with each other?
 - **Not at all.**



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James 1

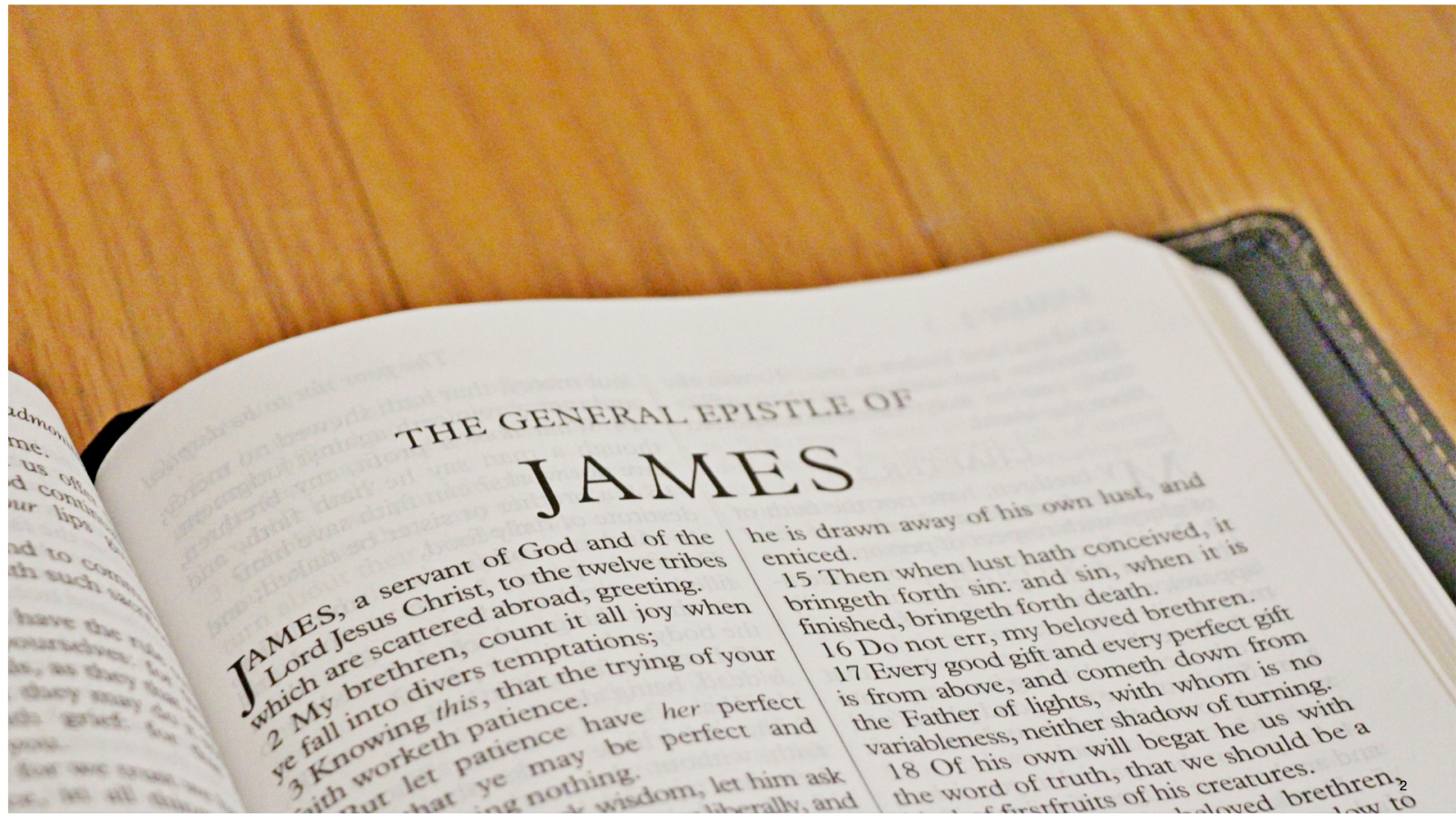
- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - We are **initially justified** by God's grace through Christ's blood **when/as** we **first submit** to Christ • We **continue to be justified** by God's grace through Christ's blood as we **continue to submit** to Christ
 - Both **Romans** and **James** — in different ways — teach us that Christians, having been justified initially by Christ's blood, **must** avoid/stay away from sin
 - **Romans 5.12-6.11** • Adam/Christ • Sin/death vs No sin/no death • Consequences of physical death erased by “free gift”/grace Christ -> gift of righteousness through “the One, Jesus Christ” -> “Shall we continue ... certainly not”



Studies In James - 02/10/2021

James 1

- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - **James 1.12ff** • Remember what we noted earlier ...
 - Endures (NKJV) =’s “remains steadfast under trial” (ESV) • “perseveres under trial” (NASB, NAS95, NIV) • “remains faithful under trials” (TEV)
 - Being “approved” (NASB, NKJV) • “stood the test” (ESV, CSB17) • “he is tried” (KJV) • “undergoes testing” (BBE) • “remain faithful under trials, because when they succeeded in passing such a test” (TEV)
 - James 1, like Romans 5.12-6.11, teaches the need for **ongoing faithfulness**, especially in the midst of trials of faith • Both texts teach that it’s “doable”



Studies In James - 02/10/2021

James 1

- **1.12-15 - The blessings of temptation**
 - “for when he has been approved” **1.12**
 - Refers to **ongoing**, not initial, justification/sanctification
 - Approval comes chronologically/naturally due to having “stood/passed the test” • **5.11, cf. Mt 10.22, Rev 2.10, 3.11**
 - “he will receive” • “will” is future
 - Point: Future approval in God’s sight is, in part, **conditioned** on **present** and **ongoing** faithfulness on our part

