

James

CLA Spring 2014

Jim Hoffman

James

- **James is a book of tests –**
 - **How do we deal with adversity? (James 1)**
 - **How do we speak and work. (James 2)**
 - **Have we tamed our tongue? (James 3)**
 - **Have we repented? (James 4)**
 - **Have we endured? (James 5)**

James

- **James is a book of tests –**
 - **The test of blame in temptation.**
 - **The test of how we respond to the Word.**
 - **The test of an impartial love to others.**
 - **The test of righteous works.**
 - **The test of the tongue.**
 - **The test of humble wisdom.**
 - **The test of worldly indulgence.**
 - **The test of dependence.**
 - **The test of patience.**
 - **The test of truthfulness.**
 - **The test of prayerfulness.**

James 1:9-11

- **Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. 11 The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.**

James 1:9-11

What do you make of James' statements regarding the rich and the poor?

Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field.

James 1:9-11

- **Both the poor and rich benefit from conversion to Christ.**
- **The poor have been made joint heirs with Jesus and have a very bright future.**
- **The rich have been blessed to understand that this life is not all there is.**

James 1:9-11

- **As I observe our world, and what it values, I suspect there are few who believe what James says about the achievements of the rich.**
- **Look at the buildings we build – the names of the people to which we dedicate our buildings are always the rich and the famous.**
- **Why? Because quite often they donated large sums of money to have their names engraved on the facility. (they have no desire to fade away)**

James 1:12-15

- **12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.**

James 1:12-15

- **There is a reward, the crown of life, for those who endure temptation, yet few of us want to admit that we are ever tempted with sin.**
- **In our pristine little Christian circles, no one wants to be seen as so weak that we could be tempted to sin.**
- **In reality, I think it makes us all hypocritical and dishonest.**

James 1:12-15

A question for the ages – when the devil confronted Jesus in the wilderness with “worship me”, “tempt God”, and “feed yourself”, could he have yielded to those calls of Satan?

James 1:12-15

- It is not a sin to be tempted – it is sin to yield.
- **1st Cor 10:13** The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.
- It is ‘when’, not ‘if’ you are tempted. 😊

James 1:12-15

- James also tells us here that temptations come from within us and NEVER from God.
- Mark 7:20 And then he added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. 21 For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."

James 1:12-15

- Temptation comes from our own desires and take on many forms depending on what it is you desire.
- All temptations come from three main roots –
 - 1st John 2:15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.

James 1:12-15

- In fact, our temptations can probably be distilled even further, down to just two.
- Lust for pleasure (physical or aesthetic) and pride in what we have or accomplished.
- So what is the real tragedy when we yield to temptation?
- We are drawn away from God.

James 1:12-15

- We are in a daily war
- Gal 5:16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 *The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants.* And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. *These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.* 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

James 1:16-18

- **16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. 18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.**

James 1:16-18

- **Verse #18 - He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.**
- **The One who is perfect and created all of the stars of heaven then chose us!**
- **And we are His 'prized possession'!**

James 1:19-21

- **19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. 21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.**

James 1:22-25

- **22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.**

James 1:26-27

- **26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. 27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.**

Questions