

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
 - Causes of Temptations 4:1-6
 - Overcoming 4:7-10
 - Judging and Presumption 4:11-17
 - Temptations of Hording 5:1-6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

A quick reminder of where we are...

- CH 3 had 2 main thrusts
 - Misuse of teaching gifts and the tongue (1-12)
 - Contrast of true wisdom and world thinking (13-18)
 - Concern with fruits of jealousy/selfish ambition (14)
- The emphasis was in making peace (18)
 - This is a sign of His Kingship in our lives
 - And it is the sign of His rulership in our hearts
 - So having said that...

And so, we move to...

- The causes of **Conflicts** among Christians!
 - This carries down from 3:14, 15 – worldly wisdom...
 - Quarrels – *polemos*, battle, dispute, strife, quarrel
 - Conflicts – *mache*, disputes, strife, contention
 - Pleasures – *hedone*, lust, desire, gratification
 - War – *strateuomai*, lead to battle, campaign
 - “...lusting after lust wars within our members seeking its pleasure and gratification. Man is a civil war of lust and desire, of pleasure and gratification raging within his body and its members.”

The lifestyle of the “lost”

- What kind of Christians live this way???
 - Lust, murder, envy, fight, quarrel...
 - Envy – I want it, I don't want YOU to have it!!!
 - Sadly seen in many issues in churches...
- Our problem is we forget our true source!
 - Sinful lusting will not obtain anything worth having
 - But, in asking, our focus must turn to God (Mt 7:7ff)
 - "Make the service of God your supreme end, and then your desires will be such as God can fulfill in answer to your prayer." (Ropes)

The other root problem (3)

- So if I ask, I can have anything I want???
- **NO!** no matter what “others” say...
 - Context is rarely kept on verse 2...
 - Ask with wrong motives – *kakos*, evilly, diseased...
 - Spend it on pleasures – *hedone*...
 - Squander, *dapanao* (Lk 15:14 – the son)
- Adulteresses!!! (OUCH!)
 - Spiritual adultery against Christ – Gal 5:17-21
 - Friendship with the world = hostility toward God
 - Ro 5:10; 8:7; 1Jo 2:15-17 – see 2:23! Choice!!

Things of this world

- James has more to say later on this (ch 5)
- Attitudes and priorities of the world
 - Selfish, self-centered, me-ism
 - Luke 12:13-21 is a great example
 - Political emphasis on power – NEA Counsel Chanin:
 - "not because of our creative ideas, it is not because of the merit of our positions, it is not because we care about children, and it is not because we have a vision of a great public school for every child. NEA and its affiliates are effective advocates because we have power."