

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
 - Nature of Trials (2-8)
 - Rejoicing and Enduring (9-12)
 - Origin of Trials (13-18)
 - Preparations for overcoming (19-27)
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

Attitudes in Times of trials

- Vs. 9 picks up from vs 2
 - glory/boast is first in the Greek...*kauchaomai*
 - Poor in goods/spirit, same word!
 - *tapeinos* – lowly, humbled, cast down, low with grief
 - *hupsos* – elevation, rank; Mt 11:29
 - James will have more to say on the poor/rich...
 - In low standing, we have the blessing of being **lifted**
 - Not of/from ourselves, but by God (Ps 113:7,8; Pr 17:5; Je 9:23,24; 1Pt. 5:5)
 - We must never allow our trial to destroy our faith/us

Attitudes for the wealthy

- Wealthy rejoice in their low estate? (10)
 - *plousios*-wealthy, abounding in material resources
 - *tapeinosis* – play on word from former verse
 - The cross is the great leveler of all men (ATR)
 - Not accepted by God because of what we own/have
 - How many rich/powerful families... gone!
 - Ps 73; 103:14-16; Isa 40:6,7; 1Pt 1:24
 - The rich man's journey- *maraino* (1x) fade away

A promise to both - 12

- Blessed are all (*makarios*)
 - This is applied to any person in the faith “proving”
 - *hupomeno* (pres. act.), from vv. 3,4
 - *peirasmos* – from verse 2, negative sense here...
 - When approved (*dokimos*, see vs 3) full process
 - Crown (*stephanos*) of LIFE (*zoe*); Re 2:10
 - The Lord has made this our hope and promise
 - To those who love! Relationship replaces religion...
 - Thru the times of testing, we will love Him the more
 - Mt 10:22; Ga 6:9; 1Pt 1:13;2:19;1Co 15:58; Ps 17:3

Nature of Temptations (13-18)

- A new thought develops here – it is God’s fault!?
 - *peirazo* – used 3x here; same root, different sense
 - The former to remove the dross/flesh of our lives
 - These are acts designed to cause sin, failure...
 - Adam put the blame on Eve and it has been so since
- God and evil(s) *kakos* – wicked, bad by nature
 - God is only “tempted” by people! Massah & Meribah
 - He does not use evil to destroy us...
 - God’s work is to coax us to rightness and purity
 - Sinful wicked temptation arises from another source

Source of Wicked Temptations (14)

- What? His own lusts??(gulp!) Not the devil???
 - *epithumia* - desire, craving, longing, active vices
 - This is the real battle in our souls...
- Graphic pictures here:
 - *exelko* (1x) – hunting/fishing lure; seduction also
 - *deleazo* (3x) - to beguile, allure, entice, deceive
 - Both are present passive verbs... done to you...
 - Conceives, *sullambano* – take captive, make prisoner
 - Do we give in and get taken captive? Or resist??
 - *apoteleo* (1x) – to finish, make an end... DEATH!

William Barclay

"Now desire is something which can be nourished or stifled. A man can...by the grace of God, eliminate desire if he faces it and deals with it at once. But...

- he can allow his steps to take him into certain places and certain company.*
- he can encourage his eyes to linger on certain forbidden things.*
- he can spend his life fomenting desire.*
- he can use mind and heart and eyes and feet and lips to nourish desire.*

"[However, a man] can so hand himself over to Christ and to the Spirit of Christ that he is cleansed of evil desire. He can be so engaged on good things that there is no time or place left for desire.