

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

Things to remember:

- Trials are godly in purpose and function
- Temptations are driven by our lusts
- Rich and Poor are both given the choice – crown!
- 19 – quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger
- Rather, put aside the filthy and get implanted!
- **Able** to save your souls! (*dunamai*)
 - This is a better use of energy than anger
 - 1Pe 1:9; Jas 2:14; 4:12; 5:20; Ro 1:16 – ultimately
 - This is the only BIBLICAL method...

Doers not hearers (22)

- ✘ “keep on becoming” – constant act of purpose
 - ✘ Pres. Middle – we have to do this...
 - ✘ Doers (poietes) obeyer, performer, poet! (see 25)
- ✘ Mere hearers – (Mere Christians! CS Lewis!)
 - ✘ *akroates* – Ro 2:13 (22,23,25) – to just hear...
 - ✘ *paralogizomai* – miscount, cheat, false reckon
 - ✘ So many are “sure”, yet blind to their need!
 - ✘ James will give us specific areas to check...

What about the word needs heeding?

- Be DOERS of the Word, not just hearers! (23,24)
 - A major thinking point in James – results of salvation
 - This is NOT earning salvation, as Luther thought
 - But rather, the fruit of Life in Christ over religion
- A man and a mirror (silver, copper or tin)
 - If we listen only, we forget what we see!!!
 - "out of sight, and out of mind" attitudes
 - We forget it all and need another look to help us
 - Such a lifestyle cannot/will not be blessed...

Doers goals and joys

- Looks intently (*parakupto*) inspect curiously, bent
 - This is not a casual glance (aor. act.)
 - The word must have root in our soul to produce...
- perfect law (*nomos teleios*)
 - We forget that God's law has no error – Ro 7:12-14
- Freedom? (*eleutheria*)
 - Freedom to do as one pleases? Or to do or not do?
 - Freedom from habits, sin, death
 - Do we see the WORD as bringing freedom to us?
 - Jo 8:32; 2Co 3:16; Ro 8:2

More than a look...ABIDE! (25)

- Abides by/with (*parameno*) (aor. act.)
 - When we look into it, our attitude matters...
 - Is this something we are going to embrace?
- Forgetful hearer (see 24) / effectual doers (22)
 - *poieta ergon* – obeyer, performer, poet!
 - Such a one will have his doing blessed! (1:12)
 - This is the doing after the perfect law of liberty
 - When we do things God's way, results are blessed
 - A good reason to follow!

Dealing with the Tongue #1

- Forgetful “hearers only” - #1 failure
 - Think they are religious... all the trappings/rituals
 - *threskos* 1x – to tremble, mutter prayers, cry out
 - Mt 6:1-18 deals with much of this as well, Pharisees
 - Tithes, prayer, fasting, attendance – not enough!!!
- Bridle your tongue! Note: not someone else’s!!!
 - Vs 19 again...*chalinagogeo*, hold in check (2x, 3:2)
 - Pres. Act – we do it and keep on doing it
 - Only we can “check” our tongues!
 - What forms can this take???

Tydale comments: James pg 54

- interrupting and dominating the conversation
- being easily provoked and lashing out at others
- gossiping and telling tales
- criticizing and murmuring
- judging and condemning others
- using slang and cursing
- engaging in suggestive and off-colored talk
- talking about and running down others

Deceptions & Truth

- Deceives his heart
 - (*apatao*) – cheat, beguile, trick, from 22's warning...
 - Note: it is the HEART that is deceived ultimately
 - This brings a worthless/vain religion (ceremony)
- Contrast – pure and undefiled, in God's sight
 - What a difference... forgotten mirrors or His sight!
 - Visit (*episkeptomai*) (see Mt 25:36,43)
 - To look upon with the thought of helping
- Keep yourself unstained from the world!
 - Keep and keep on being unspckled from dirt/slime