

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
 - Issue and examples (2:1-7)
 - Correction (2:8-13)
 - Works and Faith (2:14-20)
 - Examples: Abraham and Rahab! (2:15-26)
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

Issues of favoritism (2:1-4) [REVIEW]

- My brethren (1:19; 2:5,14; 3:1; 5:7)
 - We are always to think of one another this way...
- We have a faith that needs to be held!
 - *echo* – to have, wear, hold fast (pres. act. imp)
 - but not with favoritism...
- 3 charges here:
 - *Vs. 1 - prosopolepsia* – respecter of persons
 - *Vs. 4 – diakrino* - to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, strive with dispute, contend
 - *Vs. 4 – krites* - judges, *poneros* – evil, wicked

Illustrated in a visit of 2 men

- Probably of strangers visiting the church
- A man of gold ring and fine clothing
 - This would signify position and status
 - Gold seal rings probably...
- A poor man in dirty clothing
 - Nothing special here...
- Pay special attention – look, gaze upon, regard
 - The eye is so easily appealed to (1Sam 16:6ff)
 - James calls this “judges with evil thoughts”

Seeing from God's view... (5-7)

- Repeated “brethren” appealing to hearts
- God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith!
 - Often, in revival, it is the poor who respond
 - 3rd world countries have greatest growth
 - 1Co 1:27 (same word 3x)
- God has chosen them heirs of the Kingdom
 - Ro 8:16,17
- The promise to all who love Him
 - This is God's criteria, and we need to hear it!
 - Those who are forgiven much, love much! (Lk 7:47)

Also seen from God's view (6-7)

- By showing favoritism:
 - dishonor (of JC, Mt 13:57) *atimazo*, insult, contempt
- The Rich are the ones oppressing & suing!
 - *Katadunasteuo* (2x – Ac 10:38)
 - Courts – Ac 8:3; 16:19; 21:30 – making grabs
 - Blaspheme His Name – why do they need God?
 - Christians in Antioch (Ac 11:26) – derision
- And these are they people who are courted?
 - Rather have a full house of the needy!
 - Lk 14:16-24; a wake up call...

Alternative thinking (8,9)

- Love your neighbor... all of them!
 - It is amazing how this covers so many areas!
 - Law of the King, royal (Le 19:18, Ga 5:14)
 - Doing well! By loving, we defeat the root of prejudice
- What makes this hard to do?
 - Fear? Pride? Envy? Anger? Sin?
- The warning is here, if we see it: vs 9
 - Committing sin – “you work a sin”
 - Transgress the law
 - Le 19:15; De 1:17; 16:19