

Manifold Temptations

James #1

TEXT: James 1:2-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. JAMES WRITTEN IN THE 60's DURING HARD TIMES THAT WILL GET WORSE.
- B. OTHER LETTERS TO JEWISH CHRISTIANS ADDRESS THE SAME THING.
- C. **Chapter 1** DEALS WITH HOW TO HANDLE THE MANIFOLD TRIALS AHEAD.
- I. REJOICE IN TRIALS (vs. 2-4).**
 - A. STRANGE BUT COMMON REACTION.
 - 1. Peter and John (**Acts 5:41**).
 - 2. Peter's encouragement (**1 Pet. 1:6**).
 - 3. The last Beatitude (**Matt. 5:10**).
 - B. WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER (vs. 3-4).
 - 1. **Patience**, **hupomonee**, 1. steadfastness, constancy, endurance **James 5:11**; 2. a patient, steadfast waiting for; 3. a patient enduring, sustaining: **2 Cor 1:6** (Thayer)
 - 2. Patience – endurance and steadfastness needed (**Heb. 12:1-2**).
- II. PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP (vs. 5-8).**
 - A. GOD ANSWERS PRAYER (**Matt. 7:7-8; James 5:16**).
 - B. WE ARE TO ASK FOR WISDOM.
 - 1. "the **practical use of knowledge**" (A. T. Robertson's Word Pictures in the N T), "**wisdom**, broad and full intelligence" (Thayer).
 - 2. "**Power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action**, based on knowledge, experience, understanding ... **good judgment**" (Webster).
 - C. FAITH – TRUST IS NECESSARY (vs. 6-8).
 - 1. Faith is trust – confidence (**Heb. 11:6**).
 - 2. God is faithful (**2 Tim. 2:11-13**).
 - 3. The shame of not trusting (vs. 7-8).
- III. GOD PLAYS NO FAVORITES (vs. 9-11).**
 - A. GOD REGARDS NEITHER WEALTH OR POVERTY (vs. 9-10; **Luke 12:15**).
 - B. ALL SUFFER THE SAME FATE (vs. 10-11).
 - C. ALL SUFFER THE SAME TRIALS (**1 Cor. 10:13**).
 - D. NO RESPECT OF PERSONS, NO SHADOW CAST (**Rom. 2:11; James 1:17**).
- IV. BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT ENDURES TEMPTATION (vs. 12-16).**
 - A. MEANING OF TERMS USEFUL:
 - 1. **Endureth** – "**hupomeno**, "to abide under, to bear up courageously (under suffering)" (Vine)
 - 2. **Temptation** – "an experiment, attempt, trial, proving
 - a. universally, trial, proving:
 - b. specifically, the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy, etc.(Thayer)
 Same family of words found in vs. 12 and vs. 13-14.
 - 3. **Lust** – **epithumia**, "desire, craving, longing: **Luke 22:15** (Thayer)
 - "... craving **either good (Phil 1:23) or evil (Rom 7:7)** as here" (A. T. Robertson)
 - a. It is argued that the word for lust, **epithumia**, means evil desire. This is based on the fact that it is only used 3 times in a good sense. If so, it disproves the assertion, for its use is admitted (**Luke 22:15; Phil 1:23; 1 Thess. 2:17**).
 - b. According to **Englishman's concordance** the verb form is 15 times, 9 of which describe a desire for that which is good or neutral.

- c. See **Vine** article.
- d. When does **lust** become **evil** – when it masters us (**Rom. 6:12**).
- 4. **Drawn away**– "to draw away, or lure forth," "As in hunting or fishing the game is "lured" from its haunt, so man's lust "allures" him from the safety of his self-restraint (**Vine**).
- 5. **Enticed** – As a fish with bait (**Vincent**).
- B. THE PROCESS OF TEMPTATION – **SATAN KNOWS WHERE YOU LIVE!**
 - 1. **Internal** – our desires. Satan uses our desire as a motivation to act.
 - 2. **External** – He provides the means and an opportunity without regard to God's law.
- C. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUT COME:
 - 1. **Lust**, when it conceives – takes control (**Rom. 6:12**) – bears sin (**6:23**), then death.
 - 2. The man that endures
 - a. Is **approved** of God (**Heb. 11:16; 2 Cor. 6:17-18**).
 - b. Has a **crown** coming (**2 Tim. 4:5-8; 1 Pet. 1:6-7**).

God's Bait

CONCLUSION:

- A. WE ARE **SPECIAL** TO GOD **BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH IN HIM** (**vs. 18**).
(brought us forth **by the word** – sons of God thru faith (**Gal. 3:26-27**).
- B. HE HAS BLESSED US WITH WONDERFUL GIFTS DEMONSTRATING HIS CARE.
- C. ONE GIFT IS **HELP IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION** (**1 Cor. 10:13**)