

James 1

1:9-27

Review

- James, the Lord's brother, is the most likely author of this epistle.
- James grew from an unbeliever to a pillar of the church.
- When undergoing a trial:
 - Count it a joy because we are being strengthened.
 - Ask God for wisdom and He will help you.

James 1:9-11

- The context is faith under trials. (1:2, 12)
- Poverty and riches can also be trials.
 - Being poor can cause discouragement, lead to stealing, illegal deals.
 - Being rich brings a whole host of other dangers.

James 1:9-11

- What would be the exaltation for the poor man?
 - He is a forgiven child of God who is to inherit great spiritual blessings.
- The rich man can overcome the temptation to be lifted up with pride, love money, etc. by remembering the humiliation of sin and the temporary nature of one's prosperity.

James 1:12

- Who is the blessed man of 1:12?
 - The man who endures temptation; perseveres under trial; remains steadfast.
 - God is a forgiving God, but must we always give in?
 - There is a real joy or satisfaction in knowing we have passed a major test.

James 1:12

- What must we do if we wish to receive the crown of life?
 - Be approved, i.e. come through the trial, but then we must also love the Lord.
 - Learn to serve God out of love.

James 1:13-15

- God does not tempt us to do evil.
 - Let's not make excuses and blame God.
- Instead, our temptation to sin comes from our own desires.
 - Watch your desires! Watch your heart!
 - Proverbs 4:23

James 1:16-18

- Do not be deceived.
 - God is not to blame and you can control these desires.
- Instead, God is the giver of good things.
- How could anyone think God is tempting them to do evil, when God is an unchanging giver of good things?

James 1:19, 20

- James begin transitioning to talk about God's word.
- Is 1:19 a general admonition or referencing our attitude towards God's word?
 - I'm not sure. Let's practice both.

James 1:21-25

- Get sin out and allow God's word to grow roots within us.
- After it has taken a hold of us, live it!
 - Bible study, teaching, preaching, etc. is not about knowledge gained, but knowledge applied.
- Look in the mirror and change your appearance!
- Application is important!

James 1:26, 27

- Examples of doing:
 - Bridle the tongue.
 - Visit orphans.
 - Visit widows.
 - Keep yourself unspotted from the world.

Conclusion

- Is your religion useless?
 - Are you being spiritually active?
- Have you been stained by the defilements of this world?
 - God offers a cleansing agent.