

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Connect Learn Grow

Wednesday Bible Study- Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

Review of the Book of James

Lesson # 6 - March 3, 2021- Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

I. Subject: True source of temptation- James 1: 13-16

II. Big Idea

In this section of chapter 1 James moves from temptations/trials of a believer's faith to temptations in the sense of enticement to sin. James is teaching his fellow believers about the real source of the enticement to sin.

James makes it very clear that God does not tempt people to commit sin. Apparently some of the people to whom James wrote were blaming God for their sinful condition, just like Adam and Eve tried to shift the blame for their sin-Genesis 3:12-13.

James teaches that God is perfectly holy, therefore, he possesses a sinless character and will not tempt any man to sin. Therefore, James concludes that the enticement to sin comes from the corrupt, fallen, and depraved nature of man.

III. Key definitions, commands, spiritual principles and spiritual disciplines.

1. " Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God, this is a " Command" that James presents to his fellow believers in verse 13. James demands that his readers stop blaming their temptation on God .Some were making such claims and those claims must stop. The use of the word " Tempted" is not the trying of faith as stated in James 1: 2-3,12, but an enticement to sin.
2. " For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man"-verse 13.As previously stated in the Big Idea above, God does not tempt believers to commit sin. In addition because of his sinless character,God cannot be tempted with evil.
3. " Every man is tempted ,when he is " drawn away" of his own lust, and enticed-verse 14. This term has a very strong meaning, it means to lure, drag away or pull away. The word lure reminds us of the tactics used in hunting and fishing, the lure or bait is designed to pull the fish or game away from hiding and entice them to take the lure/bait. In like manner a person is lured from a place of self-restraint and safety to a place of sin. To lure is to use deception. To be drawn away is a powerful illustration of the deception of lust. Lust is the bait, the trap that overcomes a person's self-restraint and place of safety to a place of sin.

4. Enticed and drawn away have essentially the same meaning, to lure , drag away or pull away from a place of self-restraint and safety to a place of sin.

5. Lust means a strong craving or desire for anything, the attempt to satisfy strong cravings in a way contrary to the word of God. When a person allows himself to follow his desire and be drawn away, he becomes guilty of committing sin. In his book: Word Pictures in the New Testament- A.T. Robertson states; "Sin is the union of the will with lust."

6. " Then when lust hath conceived,it bringeth forth sin: and sin ,when it is finished bringeth forth death."-verse 15. In this verse James uses the illustration of childbirth to show that lust is like a mother conceiving and bearing a child. James is painting a picture of sin from its conception to its conclusion. Like childbirth, sin involves progressive steps. The impregnated lust bears sin. In other words when lust is acted on , sin is always the result.

The next step in the progression is that when sin is finished, it brings forth death, in this case " Spiritual Death", a separation from God, a loss of fellowship with God. In addition there is some agreement among bible scholars that it can also refer to " Physical Death", since Satan can use lust and enticement to destroy -I Peter 5:8 states, " Be sober,be vigilant;because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

The progression that James establishes is : lust, sin, and death.

7. " Do not err, my beloved brethren"-verse 16 This admonition means to lead astray, stray from the truth, or to deceive. James wanted these believers to remain faithful to the truth. To take responsibility for their sin and stop blaming God. James addresses these believers as " my beloved brethren" , because he had deep affection for them and sought not to make them feel bad but to warn them to avoid sin at all cost.

Iv. Application

The act of temptation itself is not sinful. Sin develops when an individual gives in to the deed and agrees that it is good or desirable.

Being open to temptation is based on the weakness of the human heart.

Evil desire is the lure/bait that can hook any person.

The teaching of the Bible will not let us blame God, Satan or others for sin, the blame rests squarely on each individual.

Based on the teaching of this lesson what steps should believers take to avoid the progression of sin ?