

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Connect Learn Grow

Wednesday Bible Study- Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

Review of the Book of James

Lesson # 7-March 10,2021-Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

2021 Bible Study Motto “ Simply put, we must practice the spiritual disciplines that form pathways to the heart of God and transform us into godly people. Training -not trying -is the key.” The Complete Book of Discipleship by Bill Hull.

I. Subject: The True Nature of God- James 1: 17-18

II. The Big Idea

In verses 17-18 James demonstrated that God cannot be responsible for the sins men commit, he then demonstrated the goodness of God. James makes it clear that instead of God being the source of sin, God is the source of all that is good.

James wanted his hearers to know that from God , who is good, can only come “ every good and perfect gift.”

III. Key definitions

1. Good- Means that which is useful and beneficial. The gifts of God are both useful and beneficial.

2. Perfect- Means that which is complete and lacking nothing.

3. From above- Refers to origin, the gifts of God do not have their origin in the world, but come from heaven.

4. Cometh down- Is a “ present active participle” that conveys the idea that the good and perfect gifts come from God and they are inexhaustible, they continuously flow from heaven.

5. Father of Lights- Points to the character of God, the giver of good and perfect gifts.

6. No variableness-neither shadow of turning- Refers to the more detailed description of the character of the Father of Lights : his character is immutable-no variableness, no change. The character of God is so unchanging that not even so much as a “ shadow of turning “exists with Him. The light from God is constant and unchanging.

7. On will- Speaks to the desire of God for men to be saved from the penalty of sin. However, men must repent and believe the Gospel-2 Peter 3:9.

8. Begat He us- Is a metaphor (a figure of speech that uses symbols to represent something else). This symbol (the something else) is that of birth, the fact that God alone imparts spiritual life to believers and in the process uses the “ word of truth” -the Gospel to confront sinners with their need for salvation.

9. That we should- Means “ In order that “, which speaks to the purpose of the new birth.

10. Firstfruits- The purpose of the new birth is that believers represent the first portion or foretaste of what God has in store for believers in the new creation-new heaven and new earth. The firstfruits of the Old Testament referred to that portion of grain that ripened before the entire harvest. It was a pledge that a fuller more complete harvest was yet coming, it was a foretaste of what was ahead. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead assures all believers that as the firstfruits they also will rise with Jesus and experience all the blessings of a heavenly future.

IV. Spiritual principles and doctrine

1. It is impossible for God to tempt man with evil because his character is good and He only wants that which is best for man.

2. God's character is immutable, unchanging, it does not change. God is changeless. The light of God's truth, goodness and holiness remain constant.

3. God's character determines what he does and what he does is good.

4. The gifts that God provides to believers are good, useful, beneficial, perfect, complete, inexhaustible, continually coming down from heaven and meeting specific needs.

5. God is so good, he wants all men to be saved.

6. God is so good, he gave men the “ word of truth”- the Gospel which informs men of their need for salvation.

7. Two points from James 1: 17-18 demonstrate the goodness of God:

**** God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

**** God provides a way for man to experience salvation.

V. Application

How would you describe the character of God to an unbeliever?

Does the goodness of God motivate believers to worship Him ? Why?

How would you apply this lesson to your life ?