

Blessings in James

Introduction:

1. In His Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), Jesus showed how certain people are "*blessed*."
2. Similar statements are found throughout the Bible, including the book of James.
3. In this lesson we are examining 2 special blessings that James addressed in his letter.

Discussion:

- I. FIRST, THOSE WHO ENDURE TEMPTATION ARE "*BLESSED*" (James 1:12)
 - A. The Lord will bless those who persevere through their temptations.
 1. He has promised "*the crown of life*" to those who are approved (Revelation 2:10).
 2. In the context, James dealt with 2 types of temptation that must be endured:
 - a. trials of faith (James 1:2-11)
 - b. enticement to commit sin (James 1:13-16).
 - B. (James 1:2-11) Information is given that will help us to persevere when our faith is tried.
 1. (vs.2-4) Christians are to face trials with "joy."
 - a. (vs.3) The Lord's followers know that trials produce "*patience*" [endurance].
 - b. (vs.4) Facing trials correctly will lead a child of God to be complete in every way.
 - c. Jesus serves as our great example in this regard (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9; 12:1-3).
 2. (vs.5-8) Christians are to pray for wisdom when facing trials.
 - a. (vs.5) God will provide the wisdom that is needed.
 - 1) He will give wisdom liberally.
 - 2) He will not reproach those who ask for wisdom.
 - b. (vs.6-8) When praying for wisdom, we are to do so "*in faith*."
 - 1) We must not waver -- one who wavers is double minded and compared to a wave in the sea.
 - 2) The Lord will not provide wisdom to those who waver.
 3. (vs.9-11) James illustrated the principles he recorded.
 - a. (vs.9) A poor brother is to rejoice when facing his greatest trial [being exalted].
 - b. (vs.10-11) A wealthy brother is to rejoice when facing his greatest trial [being humiliated].
 - c. The keys for both men would be:
 - 1) to realize that trials lead to completeness
 - 2) to depend upon God for wisdom and help.
 4. (vs.12) Those who persevere through their trials will be blessed with the crown of life.
 5. (James 5:10-11) The prophets and Job provide additional examples.
 - C. (James 1:13-16) Information is given that will help us to persevere when we are enticed to commit sin.
 1. (vs.13) James touched on the source of temptation.
 - a. God is not the source of temptation -- He gives good gifts (James 1:17).
 - b. We are to depend upon Him when we are tempted (Matthew 6:13).
 - c. (James 4:7) We are to resist the devil because he is our adversary (1 Peter 5:8).
 2. (vs.14) James revealed the temptation process [illustrated by Eve -- Genesis 3:1-6].
 3. (vs.15) James revealed the results of giving in to temptation.
 - a. Uncontrolled desire leads to sin.
 - b. Sin leads to death.
 4. (vs.16) James warns us against erring.
 5. (vs.12) Those who persevere through temptations will be blessed with the crown of life.
- II. SECOND, DOERS OF THE WORD WILL BE "*BLESSED*" (James 1:25)
 - A. (vs.21-22) James showed how God's Word is to be received.
 1. (vs.21) It is to be received with "*meekness*."
 2. (vs.22) We are to be "*doers of the word, and not hearers only*."
 - B. (vs.23-24) James gave an illustration of one who is "*a hearer of the word, and not a doer*."
 - C. (vs.25) The Lord will bless those who hear His Word correctly.