

Intro: RUSH hall of fame induction 2013 - Lifeson blah blah blah

It can feel like it may feel to follow through with something like that. Hard to do it, stay with it
Like a few of the passages we've already seen, this is reversal from what we expect

Godly perspective realizes what matters

How?

1) Our status and hope are secured in Jesus

- Passage very difficult in second part of the phrase - first is clear
- Two descriptions on side of spectrum, divisiveness (social class, politics, school)
- Humble - lowly
 - Same root as Mary's song in Luke
- Wordly wisdom looks at lowly as insignificant - we can feel insignificant
 - Not at a certain place in life, health, finances, not where you want to be
- Can also describe condition/attitude
 - "James realized that a person's attitude towards material things is a good indication of his spiritual condition." - Ed Hierbert
- Poor in spirit (blessed are poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven)
 - Some of us may be poor in spirit (loss, heartbreak, don't fit in, unseen)
- Boast in exaltation - hope for believer
 - What things do we have in being a child of God
 - Declared children, place, promised eternity, riches, royal priesthood

App: If you're low, look to Jesus

HOPE IS NOT JUST FOR THE FUTURE BUT THE NOW

- What if you tried hard, people around you getting something that you aren't
 - Childbirth
 - Psalm 73 - Asaph essentially tells God he had a time when he was trying to do the right thing, while wicked people prosper and even have it easy, then he had this moment of realization where he realized their destiny was destruction and God would set things right. He ultimately concludes all he, himself, ultimately has is God **READ**
 - If you feel lowly because life seems unfair you aren't the first or the last, but your hope is in Jesus
 - Convo with Eme Swift - thankfulness - if you are truly thankful bc we don't deserve it
 - "The pessimist is not a representative of Christianity." - A. T. Robertson
 - Count it all joy
- Passage turns to the rich
 - Explain difficulty of translation
 - Identity of rich man (is he Christian or not - never uses term for believers)
 - Translation differences - what should happen vs what will happen

Option 1: like poor exaltation, rich humbled - meet in Christ at proper perspective

- Poor - heads up look up, rich, be careful you don't caught up in stuff that doesn't last

Option 2: rich man glories in his humiliation - trusts in something fleeting and thus is fading

Option 3: harsh - rich man will be judged - keep on boasting in your shame it will lead to destruction

Translation effects meaning:

Transition: Our job is not to impose one of these views but to look at this passage in light of the rest of James and find the underlying, clear connections and meaning.

What is clear:

We see a calling to love Jesus and live for what matters:

- Wealth scripturally - positive light in Proverbs and OT
- Poverty gospel
- Hope has to be in Jesus
- Easy temptation of wealth is to trust in its power
 - Can't save us, not guaranteed

Misplaced trust causes us to boast in things that will ultimately not last

- We bring nothing in world and take nothing out of it - 1 Tim 6:7

Forgetting the gospel is grounds for division

- Any material thing or worldly status that causes to think higher of ourselves than others need spiritual examination
- Money, talents, positions
 - Bane "And this gives you power over me?"

Central ground in Christ

Lowering of rich brother is as inward as raising of the poor brother" - James Moffat

APPLICATION"

Whichever side of the spectrum you may fall on:

What are your circumstances and more importantly where is your heart in regard to your circumstances?

- Have you lost hope, self-respect, joy
- Have you trusted in your success

Paul - Philippians 1 - Secret to being content in all circumstances - Jesus

2) Life is fleeting, so make it count

- Explain wildflowers in area would bloom in abundance and wind
- Equate to seasons here in Blacksburg
- Notice the succession - dries, flowers fall off, it dies-
 - OI Dada's painting
- "While pursuing his activities" - scariest part of passage
 - We can be pursuing other things and miss out
 - What drives you?
 - Is 40: grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of the Lord remains forever

- Life is a vapor - James

Making most of the time (whether you're in good or bad state)

- Make most of time at job you hate, school you're at, family you have, neighborhood
- Personal story, housing, transition, you're gonna miss this song - taking it in on stroke
- Perspective in present - not just in future but the now; are we making most of time now
- Heart - what good does it do to rid yourselves of riches without heart change
- Jer 9:23-24 - boast in the Lord not anything else
- Even though we fade away what God does through us won't

Call up band

Here today: I don't know how long I have - I need Jesus

Closing:

Back to Rush story

Apology from Neil because he realized its impact and that people loved it

Godly perspective realizes what matters. Do you?