

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, July 26, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: "Putting Test Into Perspective!"

SCRIPTURE: James 1:9-12 NIV

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.

¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

I. Key Words:

- Test
- Perspective
- Humility
- Heir
- Humiliations
- Wealth
- The Poor

II. People, Places, & Times:

- James
- The Poor
- The Rich

III. Background:

James 1:9-12 redefines wealth and status through an eternal lens. James instructs the economically poor to find joy in their spiritual riches, and the wealthy to boast in the humility of Christ rather than fleeting possessions. True endurance through these trials promises the ultimate reward of eternal life.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. The Perspective of the Poor: Boasting in Exaltation (James 1:9)

A. The Context of the Lowly:

James addresses believers who were facing poverty, likely exacerbated by persecution for their faith.

B. The Command:

To take pride ("boast") in their high position.

C. The Application:

True wealth is not measured by earthly bank accounts.

Poor believers are encouraged to focus on their elevated spiritual status as children of God and co-heirs with Christ.

2. Lesson Emphasis: 2. The Perspective of the Rich: Boasting in Humiliation (James 1:10-11)

A. The Context of Wealth:

Riches can act as a distraction or a trial just as much as poverty.

B. The Command:

The wealthy should take pride in their "humiliation". This means recognizing that, before God, human status amounts to nothing.

C. The Illustration:

James uses the imagery of the scorching sun withering a wildflower to show the temporary nature of worldly riches. Just as a flower fades, a rich person's pursuits will pass away.

3. Lesson Emphasis: 3 The Ultimate Goal: Endurance and the Reward (James 1:12)

A. The Mark of the Blessed:

True blessedness is defined by steadfastness during trials and testing.

B. The "Crown of Life":

This is a reward promised to those who remain faithful and demonstrate their love for God through perseverance

V. Make It Happen

-How does your current attitude toward money reflect your true foundation?

-Why is it easy to place our security in material things, and how does James help dismantle that mindset?

-What does the "crown of life" mean to you personally, and how can it encourage you when you face a difficult trial right now?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?
