

## SLIDE 1

# James 1:12-18 - Temptation

12-18

## SLIDE 2-4

James is developing 2 themes for us here in the first chapter one is trials and the other one is temptation

## SLIDE 5

- A trial or a temptation is the same word in the Greek
- But they can be deciphered a little bit better by the context
- So we talked a lot about trials that we go through and those are on the outside
- Now this week we are talking about temptation, which is from within
- A temptation is basically a solicitation to do evil or something that's wrong
- And all of us battle this because we have a fallen nature that resides within us
- And that fallen nature is drawn to things that are wrong and outside the will of God
- There are trials that come our way, but we must remember their ultimately governed by God

## SLIDE 6-7

12-13

Sometimes our first question in going through a trial can be God if you're in charge why did you allow this to happen?

## SLIDE 8

- and there's a great temptation to respond incorrectly inwardly
- To what is happening outwardly
- And temptations and trials are for all Christians no one gets out of them
- If you are tempted, or if you were going through a trial, there is nothing wrong with you.
- This is part and parcel of the Christian walk.
- God will allow a trial, but Satan comes with a temptation
- The trial could be financial, but then Satan will come along and tempt you to escape through alcohol or drugs
- But don't be mistaken it's not God bringing you the alcohol or the weed or the drugs - it's Satan
- And it's very important this morning that you understand that Satan will lie and try to condemn you and make you feel bad for going through a trial or being tempted. In other words the condemned Christian.
- Equally important is the compromised Christian Who has given into the temptation - but that you realize you are the problem, not God
- And finally, the unbeliever needs to understand that they are fair game for the devil to have a field day with them, and you must get these trials and temptations under the blood of Christ

- So this would be my plea to you this morning if you don't know, Christ that you surrender your life to him today today

### **SLIDE 9**

13

'Let no one say when he is tempted'

### **SLIDE 10**

- that is a negative present imperative
- Your slandering God and you're giving someone else a negative impression of him
- You're actually listening to the devil tell you who God is
- 'God cannot be tempted by evil'
- Is very beautiful in the Greek language because - what it actually says is there is not one single thing within him or a part of him that would ever do this

So it's really important to understand the idea of temptation and the reality of sin

- because we live in a time where nobody takes responsibility for anything
- We live in a psychology filled world that excuses everything and makes nobody responsible for anything
- Anything anybody does there's a reason for it and it's not their fault, this is what they tell us
- Alcoholism is a sickness
- Immorality is a sickness
- Substance abuse sickness
- Anger, issues, sickness
- Listen to me these things I just mentioned are sin.
- And they exercise themselves through temptation
- If these things were an illness or sickness, and God calls them sin, what does that say about God?
- You can lock yourself away, but the sinful desires will still be there
- Because the problem is on the inside
- So in the verses were looking at today, James has switched from the outward trials to the inward temptation
- But when you struggle with temptation, don't blame God
- Temptation is not sin, Jesus was tempted
- Same word

### **SLIDE 11**

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God given desires versus seeking to fulfill those desires out of God's will

### **SLIDE 12**

- Hunger, thirst, rest, sex
- All God given desires
- But there are lots of times where we try to fulfill those desires with something outside of the will of God
- Hunger - gluttony
- Thirst - drunkenness
- Rest - lazy

- Sex - immorality
- These desires are meant to be our servants, not our masters
- And we wrestle every day against the world, the flesh and the devil
- And these three are always trying to move us out of God's will

'Drawn away'

- is to bait with a trap
  - The bait is not wrong, but it finds us as a partaker of it
  - And sometimes we get to the point of saying, why shouldn't I?
  - And there is something within all of us that is very attracted to that bait or that shiny object
- It has nothing to do with God, but it has everything to do with our fallen nature

Lot in Gen. 13

- he looked at the land and saw how lush it was, but it says that the land was full of evil
- And he chose it anyway
- He would've chose differently if he could've decided after the fact
- Of losing his wife and losing his son in-laws
- But that's what sin does. It always brings death when it's fully conceived.

David

- it says it was the time of when the Kings go out to battle
- Yet David stayed behind and fell into sin
- He would've been safer on that battlefield
- It's interesting to me that David was over 50 years old at this point and already had nine wives
- If he would've known that it would cost him the baby that was conceived the death of his friend Uriah And the death of his throne along with his authority
- Along with the death of Ammon, and the rape of Tamar
- Death of Absalom
- David never would've got into the situation

There are times in all of our lives where we would cast off restraint

- Be prepared and be ready to not give in
- Don't believe the lie of the devil
- Don't give into your carnal or fleshly nature
- You'll not only regret it, but it will possibly take time off of your life

Sin will bring forth death every time

- sin kills relationships
- It destroys happiness
- It ruins health
- When you want to tell someone how serious sin and death is take them to the cross

- And say look at this beautiful, wonderful person
- He was holy perfect and loving
- Put into it all of the agony of the cross for you and for me
- And he died on that cross

### **SLIDE 13**

15

He changes the picture here because inverse 14 it's talking about hunting and fishing

### **SLIDE 14**

- and now in verse 15, he's using the analogy of birth
- So is talking here about desire, deception and disobedience?
- And the Bible warns us to guard the desires of our heart with all diligence
- And noticed it doesn't say guard your mind but your heart
- Because the issues of life flow from the heart
- Listen, the smartest people can do the stupidest things
- Because the heart is the seed of desire
- Jeremiah tells us that your heart is desperately or incurably wicked
- And Satan is trying to match up that bait with your wicked heart
- And when that happens, conception takes place
- It's put into your mind first and you play around with it before it ever happens
- The right circumstances come about and you give in
- And conception takes place
- And remember Satan doesn't give any gifts - you will pay for this for the rest of your life
- God is the gift giver, not the devil

Christian immaturity vs. Christian maturity

- my grandkids think with their emotion right now
- Some adults fall into this as well
- Christianity is about will and not about emotion

### **SLIDE 15**

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You cannot be deceived in this area

### **SLIDE 16**

### **SLIDE 17**

17

'Comes down'

### **SLIDE 18**

- is a present participle
- And it means they continually come down
- 'Good and perfect' - speaks of the gift and the way that it's given
- In other words, he gives the good gift in a good way
- And it's from above and the gifts continually shower down upon us
- 'Father of Lights' - God created every luminary that is in the sky right now
- And he never ever stops shining or giving off light

- His good gifts continually come down
- 'No variation or shadow of turning'
- In other words, he's never fickle and he never changes
- The good gifts, the perfect gifts and all of the cool stuff that comes your way are solely because of God's grace, kindness, and benevolence
- You may be a gifted musician or maybe you're an intelligent person or maybe you're a hard worker
- Those gifts are from God by his grace and it has nothing to do with you earning it
- There's never an excuse for you to take credit for anything
- Because everything that's wonderful in your life is because of God's grace to you

God is not moody and he never has bad days

- He's not generous with you today and mad at you tomorrow
- As we can so often be - he's not like us
- We are variable we go up and down
- God never does
- He can be nothing but good
- He doesn't react to me according to how I'm doing with him
- He is faithful when I am faithless
- He is good when I am grumpy
- He doesn't change
- That's why I love the Lord so much because he is solid as a rock
- And I can just enjoy him without worrying
- Without him being ticked at me or tired of me
- He gives nothing but good gifts because he is a good God

## **SLIDE 19**

18

God saved us by His word

## **SLIDE 20**

- in other words, God gave birth to us
- By the word of truth, because we are born of the spirit
- Peter tells us we are begotten again by the word of God and not by corruptible things

Firstfruits

- the best, the noblest
- How many sitting here today are former addicts and former drug abusers and former alcoholics?
- And marriages that were so on the rocks and you wouldn't be sitting here with your spouse without Jesus Christ
- What he is saying here is you are the best of what God brings forth through the new birth
- Sin gives birth to death

- Don't mess with it, don't go there, there's a traitor inside of you - don't listen
- And what comes forth from that is a nightmare
- But we also have a father in heaven who's given us a new birth
- And he took us out of the cesspool that we were in
- And he's given us a new birth
- Through His word and His Spirit
- And somebody might look at you and think you're a mess but you give them this verse that you are the first fruits you're the noblest
- Sin has not done this for you
- But God, the father of lights has done this for you
- Our God only produces light in life
- Satan is the one who produces six seven
- God is the one who produces 10 and 100%