

Believing the Truth about God
James 1:9-18

What we know and believe about God is vitally important, because it affects how we live. In James 1:9-18 James focuses on two areas of life and essentially tells us that if we don't understand who God is (and who God isn't) in these areas we will misinterpret what is happening to us in ways that are harmful. He addresses our financial status, and the trials/temptations we face. If we don't understand who God is in relation to these areas of life, we will experience all sorts of unnecessary turmoil and frustration. And so, let's think about what it looks like to believe the truth about God in these areas.

Read James 1:9-11

1. James says that the person who is in humble circumstances should glory in his high position (v. 9). What does this mean? And why does this make sense?

Regarding the rich, Steve said:

If you somehow knew that you would die peacefully in your sleep tonight and would wake up in the presence of the Lord, how would you think about your wealth the rest of this day? Knowing that you will leave it all behind - every single penny of it - you would think about it very differently, wouldn't you?

2. How would you think about your wealth in such a scenario?
3. How would you summarize the perspective that James gives on issues of poverty and wealth?

Read James 1:12-18

4. What do we learn about God in these verses?

5. What does James teach about temptation and sin?

6. What wrong thinking does James address here?

Steve said:

This week you and I will face trials. What we believe about God will determine whether or not those trials turn into temptations. And this week when we become aware of our lusts, what we really believe about God will determine whether we trust God and flee that temptation or whether we are enticed, hooked, and carried away.

7. James teaches that God is the giver of every good thing (v. 17). How might understanding this affect how we engage our battle with temptation and sin?

8. What is the key take-away for you in these two areas that James addresses?



Prayer suggestion: Spend 5-10 minutes each day this week on one of the following. (1) Ask God to help you see your life with money (either abundance or lack) in light of your citizenship in heaven; (2) Ask God to expose any wrong thinking you have in your struggles with sin and to help you think rightly about Him in the midst of it.



To read and meditate upon for the week ahead: James 1:19-27