

Undivided Devotion: Following Jesus as Lord in All of Life

The Letter of James

September 12th, 2021

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Curing Our Double-Vision (James 1:9-18)

1. Diagnosing a false view of God (vv. 13-15)

2. Developing a true view of God (vv. 16-18)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. What false view of God does James address in vv. 13-15? James has said that God uses “tests” to grow believers (vv. 2-4, 12). How might this lead one to (falsely) conclude that God himself is the one who entices us to do evil? According to James, where does sin come from? How does sin operate within us?
3. James doesn’t want his readers to be deceived (v. 16). Deceived about what? What does James want his readers to understand about God’s character (v. 17)? Why do his readers need to know this? James compares and contrasts God with the sun, moon, and stars. What’s the point of this comparison/contrast? How would this encourage James’ readers?
4. In vv. 9-11, James illustrates how a true view of God impacts our view of wealth. What does it mean for poor Christians to glory in their exaltation (v. 9)? What does it mean for rich Christians to glory in their humiliation (vv. 10-11)?

Application:

5. What’s the connection between being double-minded in our view of God and double-minded in our devotion to him? How does the former lead to the latter?
6. Jeff offered several ways of diagnosing a false view of God. Which of these were helpful to you? Why?
7. How can we develop a true view of God? Why is the meditating on the gospel (v. 18) the ultimate cure for double-vision? What test are you enduring right now? What lies are you tempted to believe about God in the midst of this trial? What truths do you need to turn to?
8. What’s one thing from this week’s sermon that you can apply to your life?

James 1:9-18

“Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creation.”