

James 1:9-11

- Intro:**
- How do these verses relate and connect to the previous verses?
 - Do wealth and poverty provide the context for “trials” (1:2) ?
 - Note other references to the rich and the poor within this same epistle:
 - James 3:2-12
 - James 3:15,16
 - James 4:13-17
 - James 5:1-6
- Vs. 9**
- Remember the identification of the recipients of this letter (1:1).
 - Why were they “dispersed abroad”?
 - vocational mobility?
 - selective environment?
 - ostracism, persecution due to their faith in Jesus as the Messiah?
 - famine? (cf. Acts 11:28,29)
 - Who is “the brother of humble circumstances”?
 - a person who is “low on the totem-pole in the social “pecking order”?”
 - a person who is poor financially or economically?
 - a person who is “down in the dumps” about his situation in life?
 - Is poverty...
 - a judgment/curse of God?
 - a sign of mismanagement?
 - indicative of laziness?
 - a blessed state of existence? (cf. Lk. 6:20)
 - a constant social reality? (cf. Matt. 26:11)
 - How can poor Christians “glory in their high position”?
 - Is there a special blessing of God for the poor?
 - Will the poor be “the top dogs” when they get to heaven?
 - When they recognize that they have been spiritually exalted as “kings and priests” (I Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6)?
 - When they recognize the spiritual riches that are theirs in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:18; 3:8,16)?
- Vs. 10**
- Is it wrong to be rich?
 - Is being rich a “blessing” from God?
 - Does God desire His people to be rich and prosperous as a signification of the benefit of being a Christian? Does God want you rich?
 - Are there particular “trials” that rich people have to confront?
 - What forms might these trials take?
 - What is the “humiliation” that James seems to indicate will come upon those who are rich?
 - Will they be “brought down” to know the plight of the pauper?
 - Will they be humiliated in heaven with less than the poor?
 - Is this an identification with Christ’s humiliation that all Christians have? (cf. Phil. 2:5-8)
 - Is this the humiliation of recognizing that when faced with mortality, the rich man cannot take his riches with him?

- How does the imagery of “flowering grass passing away” explain the humiliation of the rich man?
 - temporality?
 - mortality?
 - priority?

Vs. 11 • Note the similar imagery of the following passages with that in this verse:

Psalms 90:5,6

Psalms 103:15,16

Isaiah 40:6-8

Hosea 13:15

- Do these passages apply the figurative analogy to...
 - the rich?
 - temporality?
 - mortality?
- Why did such analogies of natural agrarian phenomena relate particularly well to the peoples of the Middle East?
 - Do they relate equally as well to peoples of all geographical areas in any period of time?
- Is the point that James is making the same point that Jesus made in Luke 12:16-21?
 - What are the similarities of themes?
 - What are the differences in these two passages?
- What do “the pursuits of the rich man” refer to?
 - inordinate “love of money” (cf. I Tim. 6:9,10)?
 - inordinate value on material things in the present life (cf. I Tim. 6:17-19)?
 - inordinate hope and expectation that material things will satisfy?
- Do the phrases “pass away”, “wither”, “fall off”, “destroyed”, “and “fade away” indicate that the rich man will experience...
 - an impending downfall?
 - an eventual destruction?
 - an inevitable physical death wherein he will realize that he cannot take his material riches with him?
 - an inevitable recognition of the inadequacy of his material possessions?

- Conc.**
- Do both the rich and the poor face trials and/or temptations relating to finances and possessions?
 - Can the “love of money” (I Tim. 6:10) be just as much a temptation to the poor as to the rich?
 - Is being rich or being poor (materially, financially, monetarily) irrelevant in God’s sight?
 - Is James attempting to explain that whether one is rich or poor, there will be an eventual equalization of all men before God?
 - Have you experienced trials and/or temptations that relate to...
 - monetary and/or material possessions?
 - financial disparities and/or inequities?
 - social stratification and/or classification due to material possessions?
 - Do these verses cause you to reevaluate...
 - temporality/transitoriness/brevity versus eternity?
 - mortality/death/judgment versus eternal destiny?
 - value/meaning/priority of material things versus spiritual things?