James 1:9-12

Ken Chapman · James 1:9–12 · Series: **James Study**

INTRODUCTION

- Today in our second study, we're going to look at verses 9 through 12 of James chapter 1.
- James is addressing two classes of people. He refers to the lowly and the rich.

1 Let the Lowly Brother Glory in His Exaltation

James 1:9; James 1:2

- The term lowly set in opposition to the word rich, also leads us to the conclusion that lowly here means poor.
- Their poverty may have come as a result of Christian persecution.
- Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation.
- Not their physical or financial exaltation, but obviously it would be their exaltation in Christ.
- That in Christ Jesus, in their faith and in their Christianity, they have found true wealth.

2 But the Rich in His Humiliation

James 1:10

- If he's talking about rich Christians, then he may be saying that these rich Christians have come to understand that their physical or financial wealth is not where true value is found.
- In the day of judgment, they will learn that the things of this life that they trusted in, that they put power in, that the position and the wealth that they had means nothing.
- Either way, he's elevating the poor Christian and lowering the rich who may have trusted in his wealth and his position.

3 The Rich Will Pass Away Like the Flower

James 1:10–11; James 5:1–6

- The prettiest of flowers only last for a short season.
- Now notice that he doesn't say that the riches will pass away, but that the rich person will pass away.
- Lazarus, the poor beggar, was now exalted, and the rich man was now humiliated as he stood there in torture.
- For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat that it withers the grass, its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes.
- Probably the rich person here is not a rich Christian, but the rich of the world who are oppressing the lowly brothers.
- That's the exaltation of the lowly brother when he finally sees things through the eyes of eternity, that the things of this life that he doesn't have, don't really matter.

4 Blessed Is the Man Who Endures Temptation

James 1:12; James 1:2

- Blessed is the man who endures temptation. For when he has been proved, he'll receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those that love him.
- This temptation may be the one of the various trials that he talked about in verse 2. Or it may be the result of those various trials.
- The idea of counting it all joy in our various trials, the idea of being exalted in our lowly status, will cause us to endure the temptations of this life.
- Now he's proved when he endures the temptation.

5 The Crown of Life Promised to Those Who Love Him

James 1:12

- When I have endured that temptation, when I have proved my faith in God, that I'll receive the crown of life.
- There was also the crown that was a trophy, a reward given, usually in like an athletic pursuit.
- You'll receive the reward or your crown, which in this case is life, that is immortality.
- The one who endures temptation is the same one who loves God.
- If we love God more than we love sin, if we love God more than we love this world and the things of this world, that will help us and cause us to endure temptation.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Do I choose the passing pleasures of sin? Or do I choose God and the way of God?**

MY NOTES