

James 1:12-18

Introduction

George Jones (Living and Dying with the choices I have made)

Life is a series of choices.

Life is the choosing of two paths.

These paths are not for God's amusement but for our good and blessing. Since Eve, two paths are before all humans. Christ saves us but until death, we have to follow the orders of the savior.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

"Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse. A blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I commanded you this day: And a curse if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God but turn aside out of the way which I commanded you this day to go after other gods which you have not known."

In verses 1-11, he speaks of how to behave in the trials of life.

James addresses the source of temptations and trials in verses 12-18.

Verse 12 Be Blessed

1. Blessed = the highest good (Shalom status).
2. When you are tried and you love him, you have a promise.

Verse 13 Do not be a Victim

1. Let no one say when they are tempted God did it
2. We naturally blame someone else
3. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.
4. Aaron blamed the magical cow
5. *Robert Burns "Thou knowest thou hast formed me with passions wild and strong and listening to their witchy voices has long led me wrong."*
6. "of"=Apo a distance or remoteness= as if God is far away making you do this
7. God does not know evil and cannot tempt anyone with evil.
8. *Philo "When the mind has sinned and removed itself far from virtue it lays the blame on divine causes"*

Verses 14-16 Do not be a Wanderer

1. Every man is tempted
2. He is drawn away of his own lusts and enticed
3. Abraham / David / Samson all were drawn off the path
4. Satan works through the fleshly senses and fleshly logic
5. The flesh and the devil draw us away
6. When death has conceived it bringeth forth sin
7. Conceive is an interesting word of permanence
8. When sin is conceived and finished it brings death=Thanatos=deadly
9. Do not err = roam / wander
10. To err is human
11. Do not wander beloved brethren

Verse 17 Be Gifted

1. Every good gift and every perfect(complete) gift is from God
2. The Father of lights (Sun, moon, and stars)
3. No variableness nor shadow of turning (He is good and unchanging)

Verse 18 Be Excellent

1. He has given us the word of truth (Gospel)
2. Be the first-fruits of His creatures
3. Be the best he has to offer
4. Like bread or chocolate the freshest

Conclusion:

1. God wants to bless us
2. God gives us a choice good or evil
3. We must not wander from God and his truth
4. We must be excellent servants of an unmovable God

Challenge:

1. Have you erred and wandered?
2. Come back to the fold.
3. Pray and seek God's wisdom and walk faithfully through His Spirit.