

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **James 1:12-16**.
 - B. Paul told Timothy that those who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2Tim. 3:12). This is not a threat but a promise.
 - C. How to handle our tribulations and trials is all important, it can make the difference in remaining faithful or not remaining faithful.
 - D. In the parable of the soils, Jesus speaks of those who will fall away when the problems of life mount up.
 - E. For us to be the good soil, we need to know what to do when we are faced with evil.
- I. **THE PROBLEM: OUR LUST BRINGS TEMPTATION, SIN, AND DEATH.**
- A. Text: James 1:12-16.
 - B. James defines the problem and it is our own lusts that will begin the road to trials and temptations.
 - C. First, we must understand that Jehovah God does not tempt us to do evil and neither can He be tempted. Because God cannot be tempted He cannot sin by temptation (Jas. 1:13).
 - D. Second, then since God does not tempt us to do evil, the origin of our sin comes from our own lusts. The opposite of lust is love (the world thinks they are the same) and that is why we are to be loving people (1Jn. 2:15,16; Jas. 1:14).
 - E. Third, when our lust has become full grown, or conceived, or reached its logical end, it brings forth sin. Sin then has its fruition in death, both spiritual and physical (Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:15).
 - F. So the way to stop spiritual death is to stop sinning. To stop sinning is to not yield to temptation, and the way not to yield to temptation is to not let our lust control us. As the flesh wars against the spirit let not the flesh gain control (Rom. 7:22-25).
- II. **HOW TO TRIUMPH OVER TRIALS, TEMPTATIONS AND TRIBULATIONS.**
- A. James says that we are to have an attitude of joy when trials come our way. Our example is Jesus Christ (Heb. 12:2; Jas. 1:2).
 - B. Jesus considered the pain of the cross as joy because He knew what He would accomplish by dying. We need to see the victory in overcoming sin when we are faced with trials of any sort. By keeping our focus on overcoming, we can endure.
 - C. And it is endurance which is produced in trials. Only when times are tough do we know who is strong and who isn't. We only know how good something is when we test it.
 - D. When we grow through our trials, James says we will become more mature and finally gain the eternal prize (Jas. 1:4,12).
 - E. To overcome we need to do three things:
 1. Ask.
To ask; James says we may pray for wisdom. Man does not know how to direct his own footsteps, we need wisdom from above (Jas. 1:5; 3:17,18).
 2. Believe.
To believe, is not to doubt the power of God in helping us overcome (Jas. 1:6-8; 1Cor. 10:13).
 3. Trust.
To trust, is to know that God will give us all the good things we need from above (Jas. 1:17,18).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. James 1:16 carries the warning of "do not be deceived" by Satan and fall victim to trials and temptations.
- B. With God's help we can overcome the temptations and sins in our lives and thereby grow.

- C. God has the answers to life's problems. Let us go to Him for these answers.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.