

SERMON NOTES



Overcoming Temptations

James 1:13-18

March 1 & 2, 2008

INTRODUCTION:

“In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambitions, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money...At this moment God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality, and only our desire for the creature is real...The power of clear discrimination and decision are taken from us.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Sin will take you farther than you ever thought you'd stray; Sin will keep you longer than you ever thought you'd stay; Sin will cost you more than you ever thought you'd pay.”

A. The Definition: “to test, try, prove or to tempt”

In the positive sense it describes the trials that come to put someone to the test with the expectation of showing that they are worthy of being approved.

In the negative sense it describes the attempts to ensnare or entice a person to sin. It is this second way that James uses the word in verse 13.

B. The Details

1. The _____ of Temptations

The Devil - Matthew 4:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 3:5

The Flesh - James 1:14; 1 John 2:15-16

The World (system) - 1 John 2:15-16

The Lord - Abraham, Genesis 22:1; Moses, Exodus 16:4; Israel, Deuteronomy 8:2,16, 13:1-3

2. The _____ of Temptations

God's purpose is to test or prove, never to entice someone to sin.

The Teaching of James:

A. Don't Be Ignorant: Know and Accept the Facts (Vs.13-15)

First: Temptations are a Part _____... “...when he is tempted...”

Second: Temptations Never Come _____ (Vs.13)

Third: Temptations Follow a Pattern (Vs. 14-15)

_____ “... by his own lust...”

“the lust of the flesh”

“the lust of the eyes”

“The boastful pride of life...”

_____ “...carried away and enticed...”

_____ “...lust is conceived...”

_____ “...sin is accomplished...”

_____ “...it brings forth death...”

physical death, which separates the soul from the body...

spiritual death which separates the soul from God... Sometimes...

eternal death which separates both body and soul from God forever.

Defilement: Galatians 6:7-8

Discipline: Hebrews 12:6

Death: 1 Corinthians 11:30

B. Don't Be Carried Away: Know & Resist Your Desires (Vs. 14)

First: Be honest with yourself

Second: Stay Close to God

Third: Don't Make Provision for the Flesh (Romans 13:14)

C. Don't Be Deceived: Know and Love Your God (Vs. 17-18)

First: He Gives only Good Gifts

Second: He Does Not Change

His thoughts toward you are always good...His plans for you are always best... He always treats you with justice and fairness... His actions are always motivated by love...His grace and mercy are always abundant...

Third: He has Brought us Forth

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)”