

1 **James**

EXHORTATIONS TO PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

2 **How the resurrection gives us victory over sin**

JAMES 1:12-18 – A P.I.H. SERMON!

3 **How do you know it happened?**

- ▶ Did George Washington ever live? How do you know?
 - ▶ It is written in books and memorialized in art.
- ▶ Did the Holocaust actually happen and 8 million Jews die between 1941-1945?
 - ▶ It is written in books and there are many memorials to this event.

4 **How do you know it happened?**

- ▶ On September 11, 2001
 - ▶ Did 2 planes -- American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 – crash in the North and South towers, respectively, of the World Trade Center complex in Lower Manhattan?
 - ▶ Did these 2 110-story towers collapse within 1 hour 42 minutes between 8:46-10:28 a.m.?
 - ▶ Did American Airlines flight 77 crash into the Pentagon at 9:45 a.m. killing 125 military personnel along with the 64 people on the plane?
 - ▶ Did United Flight 93 crash into a Pennsylvania field killing 44 aboard?
 - ▶ Did 2977 people die, and over 10,000 were injured from the efforts of 19 hijackers?
- ▶ It is documented in photos and video.

5 **How do you know the resurrection happened?**

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 -- *For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised up on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve, then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, the majority of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all, as it were to one born at the wrong time, he appeared also to me.*

6 **Witnesses to the resurrection**

- ▶ Appeared to Cephas (Peter)
- ▶ 12 Apostles
- ▶ 500 other people
- ▶ James + Apostles (130 more followers)
- ▶ Paul
- ▶ Total = At least 645 people saw, talked, walked, and ate with Jesus after His resurrection!
- ▶ And His resurrection was documented by ancient historians in accounts that are not in the Bible!

7 **Were there witnesses?**

- ▶ Today, many try to say that the body of Jesus was misplaced, stolen, or that He never really died.
- ▶ They call the resurrection a fable.
- ▶ But let's convene a trial and call as witnesses every individual who saw Jesus alive after the resurrection.
 - ▶ If we held court 24 hours / day with no breaks and let each witness testify only 15 minutes each, it would take over 128 hours to hear. (So if we started today, we would finish early Friday morning.)

8 **What does the resurrection do for me?**

IT GIVES BELIEVERS VICTORY OVER SIN AND TEMPTATION

IT IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR ETERNAL FUTURE WITH GOD

9 **The resurrection gives us victory over sin**

Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:4–11, KJV 1900)

10 **James 1:12-14**

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

11 **James 1:15-18**

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

12 **The Source of temptation**

JAMES 1:13-14

13 **Quit blaming God**

▶ *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God...*(James 1:13a) = an imperative

▶ Some blame God for the source of their temptation

▶ *No one who is being tempted should say, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one.* (James 1:13, LEB)

▶ When we blame others, we do so to balance out our own guilt.

14 **Temptation is not from God**

▶ God is "un-temptable" *apeirastos*

▶ *For we do not have a high priest who is not able to sympathize with our weaknesses, but who has been tempted in all things in the same way, without sin.* (Hebrews 4:15, LEB)

▶ God's character is so holy that He cannot be tempted and He cannot tempt others

15 **Is temptation from the devil?**

▶ *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the*

beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44, KJV 1900)

- ▶ But Jesus never said that the devil MADE us sin. Instead, the devil lies to us and we choose to sin.
- ▶ We sin because we have a sin nature within us.

16 **"The devil made me do it"**

- ▶ The devil cannot make you do anything!
- ▶ Flip Wilson – bad theologian

17 **The Steps of temptation**

DESIRE
DECISION
DISOBEDIENCE
DEATH

18 **DESIRE – Lust is a perverted desire**

- ▶ God gives us a desire to sleep; slothfulness is a perversion of this desire
- ▶ God gives us a desire for procreation within marriage; fornication and adultery are perversions of this desire
- ▶ God gives us a desire to eat; gluttony is a perversion
- ▶ God gives us a desire to steward His possessions for His glory; selfishness and thievery are perversions

19 **James 1:14**

- ▶ *But each one is tempted when he is dragged away and enticed by his own desires. (James 1:14, LEB)*
 - ▶ Dragged away = fishing lure (fish does not see the hook)
 - ▶ Enticed = animal trap (animal sees only the bait, but not the trap)
- ▶ So a perverted desire lures us toward destruction where we see only a benefit to the temptation without considering the destruction that is coming
- ▶

20 **Disobedience**

- ▶ *Then desire, after it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is brought to completion, gives birth to death. (James 1:15, LEB)*
- ▶ Everyone of us had a biological father and mother
- ▶ Sin has 2 parents:
 - ▶ Lust (perverted desire)
 - ▶ Will (a decision to act upon that lustful desire)
- ▶

21 **Disobedience (2)**

- ▶ *Then desire, after it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is brought to completion, gives birth to death. (James 1:15, LEB)*
 - ▶ Sin is "born" whenever the will decides to act upon the lust
 - ▶ Sin is born – even before the actual act of sin is committed.
- ▶ *"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27–28, LEB)*



22 **Death**

- ▶ *Then desire, after it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is brought to completion, gives birth to death. (James 1:15, LEB)*
 - ▶ The result of sin is always some type of death (just like the hooked fish or animal in a trap)
 - ▶ Physical death
 - ▶ Moral death
 - ▶ Death to our testimony and witness
 - ▶ Death to our marriage or family



23 **The SOP for temptation**

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Do not err my beloved brethren (1:16)

24 **1. Recognize the process of sin**

Every sin has these three steps:

- ▶ Desire (lust) – where are your weaknesses?
- ▶ Disobedience (acting upon the decision)
- ▶ Death



You need an alertness to spiritual danger so you recognize when the process is starting!



25 **2. Remember the penalty of sin**

- ▶ If Moses had realized that striking the rock in disobedience would cause him to not go into the Promised Land...
- ▶ If David knew that sleeping with Bathsheba would cause:
 - ▶ Uriah the Hittite to be murdered
 - ▶ A baby to die
 - ▶ One of his sons to try to rape his daughter
 - ▶ One of his sons to kill the other son
 - ▶ His son Absalom to try and take the kingdom from him
 - ▶ Absalom to die
 - ▶ ... and a lot more consequences, would he have sinned with Bathsheba?

26

27 **3. Remember God's goodness to you**

- ▶ *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change. (James 1:17, LEB)*
 - ▶ God's gifts are good and perfect
 - ▶ His gifts glorify Him so that others know that He is the source of the gift
 - ▶ His gifts are continually coming down to us
 - ▶ God is consistent in His character and His giving; He does not change
- ▶ What if David had stopped to remember how much God had already blessed him?

28 **2 Samuel 12:7-8**

Then Nathan said to him, "You are the man! Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel: 'I anointed you as king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you the household of your master and the women of your master into your lap.

I also gave you the house of Israel and Judah; if that had been too little, I would have added to you much more. (2 Samuel 12:7-8, LEB)

29 **4. Remember God's nature within you**

▶ *By his will he gave birth to us through the message of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. (James 1:18, LEB)*

▶ Just as we all have 2 biological parents, for the Christian life to begin, there must be two things present:

▶ The Word of Truth (or message of truth)

▶ The Spirit of God

30 **Our parentage**

1 Physical

2 Sin

3 Justification

4 Dad + Mom

5 Lust + will

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (James 1:15)

6 The Word of God + the Spirit of God

• James 1:18

• *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5, KJV 1900)*

31 **Rely on the unchanging God**

▶ The Word of God is unchanging

▶ *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18, KJV 1900)*

▶ *IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1, KJV 1900)*

▶ God is unchanging

▶ *For I am the LORD, I change not; Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6, KJV 1900)*

▶ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8, LEB)*

32 **We are children of the King!**

▶ Christians are children of the Heavenly Father

▶ We are children of the King!

▶ So why should we serve the enemy of the Kingdom and dishonor our Father?

▶ Remember that as a Christian, the world holds you to a higher standard, like it or not.

▶ As a Christian, your Father sees and watches everything that you do.

33 **We are the firstfruits**

- ▶ James refers to Christians as the *firstfruits of His creatures*.
 - ▶ The firstfruits (first part of the harvest) were always given to God.
 - ▶ It was a reminder that we would have nothing apart from God's grace and giving.
 - ▶ The firstfruits were dedicated to the Lord and could only be used for His purposes.
- ▶ Because we are firstfruits, we are dedicated to the Lord and to be used to fulfill His purpose and will.

34 **What now?**

- ▶ Do you realize that Christ's resurrection proves His victory over sin?
- ▶ Do you realize that Christians – people who have received Christ as their Savior and Lord – are IN Christ?
- ▶ Will you today ask God for the grace to live in the victory over sin and temptation that He has provided?