

God is Only Good
Gracepointe Church
Dr AW Tucker
9-26-2021
James 1:13–18

Reading

James 1:13–18

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

17 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 due to change.

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

PRAYER

Last week we talked about asking God for wisdom in trials, you may have noticed I skipped a few verses, I promise we will be coming back to those later in our study of James.

James Temptation Outline

James 1:1-4 Intro to James, and Find Joy in Trials

James 1:2-8 Ask For Wisdom in Trails

James 1:13-18 God is Only Good /In view of Trails

God is Only Good in Trails

- Guidance v13
- Guilt v14-15
- A Good God v16-18

Guidance -v13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

God is Holy

"I notice in our own language and vocabulary, the term holy seems to be used among us, particularly among Christians, as a synonym for moral purity or righteousness. There's nothing wrong with that, but it may be a little bit misleading. In the Scriptures, there is one primary meaning and one secondary meaning of the term holy. The secondary meaning is that which refers to personal righteousness and purity. However, the primary meaning of the word is

“separate,” or, if you will, theological apartheid. That which is holy is that which is other—that which is different from something else.” -RC Sproul

I have often said that God’s righteousness is a part of His Holiness on display.

Holiness is one of those things we really cannot explain: For explanations - Need Reference point

-There is no known reference point by which we could truly begin to comprehend the Holiness of God!

All we know is God is Only Good and Light

1 John 1:5

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

What we do know:

Holiness Calls us to Repent

Isaiah 6:1–5

1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

God is not Tempted with evil and is Tempts no one

Holy nature has no capacity for evil!

-God allows temptation to happen!

But for His children he makes a way of Escape:

1 Corinthians 10:7–14

7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

SINCE God IS Holy He doesn't Tempt you!!!! Who?

Guilt v14-15

Who

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

Tempted is the = Pel RozO

3985. πειράζω pēirazō, pi-rad'-zo; from 3984; to test (obj.), i.e. endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline:—assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try.

CDWGTB

Entice = Leward into a trap = Mouse Trap

Illustration: Rats at Old House

-Those Stupid Rats were not enticed by cheese

Temptation is a result of Sinful desire

2 Peter 2:18

18 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.

Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:4–6

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Satan is the Author of Lies and Sin!!!!

John 8:44

44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

THEology Moment! - TheoDicy

God allows Sin, But He is not Its Author

“Edwards answers, “If by ‘the author of sin,’ be meant the sinner, the agent, or the actor of sin, or the doer of a wicked thing . . . it would be a reproach and blasphemy, to suppose God to be the author of sin. In this sense, I utterly deny God to be the author of sin.”

But, he argues, willing that sin exist in the world is not the same as sinning. God does not commit sin in willing that there be sin. God has established a world in which sin will indeed necessarily come to pass by God’s permission, but not by his “positive agency.”

God is, Edwards says, “the permitter . . . of sin; and at the same time, a disposer of the state of events, in such a manner, for wise, holy and most excellent ends and purposes, that sin, if it be permitted . . . will most certainly and infallibly follow.”

He uses the analogy of the way the sun brings about light and warmth by its essential nature, but brings about dark and cold by dropping below the horizon. “If the sun were the proper cause of cold and darkness,” he says, “it would be the fountain of these things, as it is the fountain of light and heat: and then something might be argued from the nature of cold and darkness, to a likeness of nature in the sun.” In other words, “sin is not the fruit of any positive agency or influence of the most High, but on the contrary, arises from the withholding of his action and energy, and under certain circumstances, necessarily follows on the want of his influence.”

Thus in one sense God wills that what he hates come to pass, as well as what he loves. Edwards says,

God may hate a thing as it is in itself, and considered simply as evil, and yet . . . it may be his will it should come to pass, considering all consequences. . . . God doesn’t will sin as sin or for the sake of anything evil; though it be his pleasure so to order things, that he permitting, sin will come to pass; for the sake of the great good that by his disposal shall be the consequence. His willing to order things so that evil should come to pass, for the sake of the contrary good, is no argument that he doesn’t hate evil, as evil: and if so, then it is no reason why he may not reasonably forbid evil as evil, and punish it as such.

This is a fundamental truth that helps explain some perplexing things in the Bible, namely, that God often expresses his will to be one way, and then acts to bring about another state of affairs.

God opposes hatred toward his people, yet ordained that his people be hated in Egypt (Genesis 12:3; Psalm 105:25—“He turned their hearts to hate his people”).

He hardens Pharaoh’s heart, but commands him to let his people go (Exodus 4:21; 5:1; 8:1).

He makes plain that it is sin for David to take a military census of his people, but he ordains that he do it (2 Samuel 24:1; 24:10).

He opposes adultery, but ordains that Absalom should lie with his father's wives (Exodus 20:14; 2 Samuel 12:11).

He forbids rebellion and insubordination against the king, but ordained that Jeroboam and the ten tribes should rebel against Rehoboam (Romans 13:1; 1 Samuel 15:23; 1 Kings 12:15-16).

He opposes murder, but ordains the murder of his Son (Exodus 20:13; Acts 4:28).

He desires all men to be saved, but effectually calls only some (1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30; 2 Timothy 2:26)."

We are Enticed by our sinful desires.

Hurt

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

If you take the cheese from the trap, your head will get it!!!

But God makes a way of Escape for the Saved

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Sin is fun for a season

God Will judge Sin

Colossians 3:5-6

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

CONFESS

1 John 1:8-10

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Temptation Outline

- Guidance v13 -Holy God Cannot Tempt
- Guilt v14-15 -Sin is your own, But God makes a Way
- A Good God v16-18

A Good God v16-18

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. -Don't Fall for it... Bad things are not God's Fault!

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,
Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

- James uses two different Greek Words for Gift: First is the act of Giving and the other the object given.
 - A Hillbilly English Translation: Every good gifting and every perfect gifts is from above

Father of lights. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

Not only is He Blessing us perfectly HE DOESN'T CHANGE

--We see seasons, Night, Day, The days Change..... The Sun never sets on God He Sees it all!
God NEVER Changes

Malachi 3:6

6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

God Has a Purpose

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth

-To Save His Elect!

John 6:44

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Why?

You were drawn away Enticed by Sin - Nature

Romans 3:10

10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

But God is Good

Romans 10:9-10

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:16

16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Temptation Outline

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- Guilt v14-15 -Sin is your own, But God makes a Way
- A Good God v16-18 -He redeems for His glory