

## **James: The Two Paths**

*James 1:9-16*

### **Wealth & Poverty (v. 9-12)**

- James addresses two groups & their attitudes:
  - The 'poor': Those disregarded by the world
  - The 'rich': Those deemed successful by the world's standards
  - Both should take an eternal perspective
- The poor should take pride because they have been exalted in Christ (Matt 5:3)
  - Though we often think of pride/boasting as sinful, it depends on its source (Jer 9:23-24)
- The rich should remember that their wealth is fleeting, like flowers
  - The rich Christian should boast in the humiliation that they may experience from the world when they are associated with Christ
- Thus, both the poor & rich Christian have the same focus & hope: Jesus
- Enduring the world's ridicule for the hope of Jesus is part of the trials that are rewarded with the crown of life (v. 12)

### **The Two Paths of Temptation (v. 13-18)**

- James clarifies that the source of trials/temptations\* is not God
  - God is not tempted, nor does He tempt
  - Temptation is rooted in our own desires
- When we are tempted, it is like two paths set before us
  - We either give in to the temptation, which leads to sin & death
  - Or we turn to the Lord, which leads to strength, wisdom, & life
- Temptation is a form of deception
  - When we believe that we can find what we need in a source other than God
- The truth is that everything good comes from our heavenly Father
  - Starting with the new life He offers us in Christ

### **So What?**

- What path are we walking?
  - The one that indulges temptation and leads to death
  - Or the one that we walk with Jesus, who gives us strength, wisdom, and life

**Meditation Verse:** *James 1:17*