

We begin our study in James this morning in Mark 12:

In this chapter, the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the Sadducees were trying to "catch Jesus in His Words," to trip Him up, make Him say something against the law of Moses and the scriptures that they might accuse and discredit Him before all the people. Mark 12:23-27
 How often today do Christians zealously defend religious positions or doctrines, or "think certain things" about the true and living God that they did not learn from the scriptures, that they cannot defend from the scriptures, or that they cannot find in the scriptures?

Be so careful, "my beloved brethren" of believing or even saying things about God, that you have been told, things that you have never studied for yourself and found to be true from the scriptures! When you tell someone that you believe something about God, make sure you can open your Bible and prove what you profess to be true! 2 Timothy 2:15-16

We left off last week in the proximity of James 1:16: "Do not err my beloved brethren".

The word "ERR" comes from the word error. It means to stray, wander, or to be deceived and turned aside from what is true and right. James' point of emphasis to his readers was, do not err in how you think of God, and do not accuse God of being the author of your sins!

But aren't we all prone to stray and wander from God?

That is why we have constant need of being led by God!

The Lord Jesus knew this about His disciples, and He knows it about us, that why He taught us to pray... "LEAD US NOT into temptation but deliver us from evil"; deliver me from the evil one's objective to ruin me, but also, deliver me from the evil that lurks within my own heart, keep me from wandering from the truth and from my faith in Christ! Let not even the slightest sin be conceived in my heart regarding my thoughts of God!

How can I make sure that my thoughts about God are right thoughts? BY BEING LED by God in His Holy Word!

Psalms 5:8, 23:2, 25:4-5, 27:11, 31:1-3, 139:23-24.

As we learned last week, when you sin, your sin is your fault, not God's. To think that God somehow led you to sin is to greatly err in your heart!

Remember, this is what Adam and Eve did.....Do not err my beloved brethren, God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He ANYONE to sin! James 1:14-18

**God NOT the author of your sin, He is the Author of all good:
Genesis 1-2**

God is the ONE SINGLE fountainhead and source of all good! EVERY GOOD GIFT and EVERY PERFECT GIFT is from above, and cometh down from God, the Father of lights!

Psalm 34:8-10, 84:11, 100:5, 119:68, 145:8-9, John 3:27

If you and I truly believe that God is good, the only "Giver of Good and Perfect Gifts", how often would we be at His throne of God's grace?

Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:13

James directs us to the greatest good gift that cometh down from above from God, that comes from the good pleasure of His will toward lost/fallen sinners, it is the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ to all who believe!

Do you remember the rich young man who came to Jesus and asked Him, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" You are not capable of DOING anything that you may have eternal life, but you are talking to the One who CAN DO that good thing for you! Follow me!

Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:3-7, Romans 5:15-19, 6:23

James desired to CEMENT and STAMP this precious truth into the minds of his readers..... and into our minds, that God is NOT the author of sin, BUT HE IS the Author of the greatest good and most precious gift that you could ever receive as a fallen human... the gift of eternal life, which can only COME DOWN FROM ABOVE and only be given by Him!

Christian, God promised eternal life to you before the world began, God cannot and does not lie, and God keeps His promises!

James called God, the Father of lights, (the only One capable of giving light and life to lost/dead souls), only God can reveal truth and give spiritual sight to the blind, only God can free lost sinners from Satan's grasp. Satan, on the other hand is the father of darkness, of lies, and of sin, who at this very hour is deceiving and blinding lost captive sinners to continue in their sins that they might suffer eternal damnation in hell!

And don't forget this very important detail....

There is no variableness in God, (He does not and will not waver), there is no shadow of turning in Him, He cannot be one way today and different tomorrow! He will always be good to you, child of God!

Malachi 3:6: "For I am the LORD, I change not."

God CANNOT change from being infinitely holy and unchangeably good! There is no other Person but God, whom we may trust to "constantly show us good", He will never change the good pleasure of His will toward us!

"O taste and see that the LORD is good!"

Finally: James 1:18: "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of His truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures"

Can there be anything better than the precious truth that God, by the good pleasure of His will birthed you into His Kingdom?

He was not persuaded by anyone to choose you from among so many others, and to save you from your sins, He did not look through the portals of time and see merit or goodness in you, or that you deserved to be saved, for there are "none righteous, no, not one"!

It was because of the good pleasure of God's will that you are saved. Ephesians 1:3-5, 1 Peter 1:3-4, John 1:12-13

YOU, children of God were chosen, predestinated, and then birthed into the Kingdom of God Dear Son (saved from your sins, from Satan, and eternal damnation, because of the good pleasure of God's will! It happened in time "with the Word of God's truth". Ephesians 1:11-14, 1 Peter 1:22-23

Finally, Christian, you are "a kind of first fruits of His creatures". The first fruits of the harvest in the OT were always dedicated to the Lord!

You are now considered holy unto the Lord. You, child of God, are God's first fruits in this present world, dedicated and devoted unto God!

2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Titus 2:14, James 1:17-18

God has never and will never be anything else but GOOD TO YOU Christian!

The truth is, if you're here and a lost sinner, God is being good to you right now... And the worst thing that you could do is to despise God's goodness and His call to you to turn to Him, from your wicked ways! Romans 2:4
Don't forget, there is NO GOOD THING that you may do to have eternal life; the only thing that you can and must do, is believe on Jesus Christ; He is the Only One that can do THAT GOOD THING FOR YOU!