

THE TRIALS OF LIFE AND THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST
Part Two
James 1:13-18

Remember who is writing and his assumption – a call to walk in the gospel!

Last week:

- ❖ Trials of many kinds...unique to you *and* common to all
- ❖ Steadfastness - stick-to-it-iveness – tenacity, the fight of faith!
- ❖ No **defeated Christians!** Christ Triumphant (2 Cor 2:14-16)
- ❖ *Double-minded man*...belief in God BUT leave my options open in case God doesn't come through!?! Not prayer of Mark 9:24
- ❖ Don't Blame God! - God is the generous gift-giver and wants to give good gifts
- ❖ Our goal: to make it to the end of days with our faith still intact and complete
- ❖ God is faithful to complete what He has begun (Phil 1:6)

This week:

peirasmos either outward circumstance [noun form] (v.2-3) or the work of our sinful flesh [verb form] associated with 'evil'(v.13), 'evil desire'(v.14), 'sin'(v.15)

NO ROOM FOR BLAME – outside sources often get recognized: my parents, environment, "it's a sickness", "the devil *made* me do it!", low in *self-love*

The Anatomy of a Temptation

GONE FISHIN' v.14

Lured

Enticed

ISN'T THE BABY CUTE? v.15

Conception, birth, fully grown – brings forth **DEATH**

Every temptation is a battlefield for the glory of God in our lives. FIGHT!
Every sin has at its core the idea that something is better than the will of God.

Don't be deceived! (1 Cor 6:9; 15:33; Gal 6:7; 1 John 3:7)

"Stop being deceived!" – God NEVER entices his children to destruction

THE 'WISH', A WIZARD AND THE WESTMINSTER DIVINES...

WCOF III.1 God, from all eternity, did—by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will—freely and unchangeably ordain whatever comes to pass. Yet he ordered all things in such a way that he is not the author of sin, nor does he force his creatures to act against their wills; neither is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

Look at God again! –

He chose to give us birth through the Word of truth...

Generous gift giver – *every* good gift and perfect gift, all we need...

Gracious gift giver – *coming down from above* - He chose, condescension

Good gift giver – *perfect* to the exclusion of any hint of evil

Guaranteed gift giver – certain- *no variation or shadow of change*

LEAD OF LOVE ~CAEDMON'S CALL

LOOKING BACK AT THE ROAD SO FAR

THE JOURNEY'S LEFT ITS SHARE OF SCARS

MOSTLY FROM LEAVING THE NARROW AND STRAIGHT

LOOKING BACK IT IS CLEAR TO ME

THAT A MAN IS MORE THAN THE SUM OF HIS DEEDS

AND HOW YOU'VE MADE GOOD OF THIS MESS I'VE MADE

IS A PROFOUND MYSTERY

LOOKING BACK YOU KNOW YOU HAD TO BRING ME THROUGH

ALL THAT I WAS SO AFRAID OF

THOUGH I QUESTIONED THE SKY, NOW I SEE WHY

HAD TO WALK THE ROCKS TO SEE THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

LOOKING BACK I SEE THE LEAD OF LOVE

LOOKING BACK I CAN FINALLY SEE (I'D RATHER HAVE WISDOM)

HOW FAILURES BRING HUMILITY (THAN BE)

BRINGS ME TO MY KNEES (A COMFORTABLE FOOL)

HELPS ME SEE MY NEED FOR THEE