



“Hopeful Living”
Strengthened by Eternal Values
James 1:9-11

Reflecting on 9/11 and What We can do.

Margaret Mead - Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.j

Dante - **The *hottest places in hell* are reserved for those who in times of great moral crises maintain their neutrality.**

Marian Edelman - **"Service is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."**

Introduction:

Who here is poor? Good, we have a message for you today. Who here is rich? Good, we have a message for you today. Who did not raise your hand either time? Good, we have a message for those of you that don't know if you are rich or poor today.

James has already told us:

- To reckon it joy when we have tough times knowing it will mature us.
- To ask for wisdom when going through tough times and making tough decisions
- Today we see the admonition to be hopeful by staying focused on what really matters as this world keeps throwing us curves.
- Today's passage seeks to answer questions like:

- What does reckoning joy look like?
- What does double minded man do or think?
- Do rich and poor people have trials?
- What trials do rich people have?
- What trials do poor people have?
- What is the wisdom God would bestow in time of money trials?

Our Hopefulness is greatly affected by Our : Appetite, Attitude, Ambition

I. Appetite – “of low degree rejoice” (verse 9)

PROVERBS 30:7-9 links our appetite to our contentment.

Contentment is :

NOT from:

A. Possessions – “low degree”

If we own very little riches in this life, we still can rejoice because of our eternal possessions. There is a day coming when no one will put us into a class distinction because of what we own or do not own.

Christians are to calculate their wealth in terms of eternity, not time; in terms of God’s operating assets, not a given amount of mutual funds.

BUT from:

B. Position – “he is exalted”

To be a child of God outranks any station in life on earth. In this we can rejoice in the face of any situation we might encounter.

“But you *are* a **chosen** generation, a **royal** priesthood, a **holy** nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now **the people of God**, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10).

The Christian rejoices more in the future than in the present. Although people in present time might put us on a lower rung of social acceptance, God guarantees that He will place us on the high rung of His acceptance. That hope raises us above our circumstances to a new and higher plane.

“...and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be **glorified** together” (Romans 8:17).

II. Attitude - “he is made low” (verse 10)

Compassion is :

NOT from:

A. Greatness – “the flower of the grass”

BUT from:

B. Gratefulness – “he is made low”

III. Ambition - “the flower thereof” (verse 11)

Consistency is :

NOT from:

A. Emotional – “the grace of the fashion of it perisheth”

BUT from:

B. Eternal – “in his ways”

Conclusion

- When we lose Hope...maybe we have lost Sight of what is really valuable...Spiritual things.
- Talking with a young man this past week at a local business place.. His name was Stephen and his

workplace is being hit hard by the economic conditions. He said he was a believer and had been baptized and all. I wondered if he knew that salvation was in Jesus Christ not baptism until he continued on by saying: "I'm looking for that blessed hope, the return of Jesus Christ." Now that's what the sermon has been all about.



- The holy humble temper of a Christian both in advancement and debasement.
 - Described :
 - The poor and rich are directed on what grounds to build their joy and comfort:
 - Those of Low degree
 - To be looked on as brethren
 - Poverty does not destroy the relationship among Christians
 - Good Christians may be rich in the world
 - Grace and Wealth are not wholly inconsistent
 - Abraham is the father of the faith but was rich in silver and gold
 - Both the Rich and Poor are allowed to rejoice.
 - No condition in life puts us out of capacity of rejoicing in God.
 - If we do not rejoice, it is our own fault.

- Those of Low degree may rejoice
 - If they are exalted to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom of God
- Those that are rich may rejoice
 - Even in humbling providences, as they produce a lowly humble disposition of mind, which is highly valuable in the sight of God.
- Any that are made Poor for righteousness sake, their poverty is their exaltation.
 - It is an honor to be dishonored for the sake of Christ. Phil 1:29
 - All who are brought low, and made lowly by grace, may rejoice in the prospect of their exaltation at the last in heaven. ** The salesman over at Mini Moble – "I am just waiting that blessed hope, the return of Jesus Christ."
- Rich people have good reason to be humble:
 - Their riches are passing away = the grass = seasonal = Worldly

wealth is a withering thing.

- They are passing away = the flower = alive or blooms for a short time
- Riches are too inconsiderable things to make any great or just alteration in our minds.
- As a flower fades before the heat (eastern wind) of the scorching sun, so shall the rich man fade away in his ways.
 - His ways refers to his projects, counsels, and management of this world. He will lose all these.
- The Rich should rejoice for this reason; not so much in the providence of God, that makes him rich, but in the grace of God, that makes and keeps him humble. The trials and exercises that teach him to seek his source of happiness in and from God and not from these perishing enjoyments.