

JAMES: A Gospel Paradox

Text: James 1:9-11

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Paradox - noun | par a dox | Something that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible.

THE HAVE'S & THE HAVE NOT'S::

Why do we make character judgments based upon money?

We were not all born into this world with an equal portion, but we will all leave this world carrying the same amount - NOTHING.

Our identity is received and not achieved.

"Brothers" - We are ONE.

THE RICH POOR::

Boast in your position!

THE POOR RICH::

Boast in your position!

Our value in this life, and in the life to come, is defined and determined by Christ & Christ Alone!

All of the contrasting circumstances of life present themselves as trials.

We all have and we all have not.

Know your position in Christ, and stand firm.

Food for Thought for the week of June 12, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Discuss a few points that encouraged you from the message on James 1:9-11.
2. Discuss why labels like "rich or poor" have such an impact on how we view others and ourselves. Why are we so quick to draw conclusions about one another based on outward appearances etc.? What can we do to grow beyond basing so much on temporary labels?
3. Where do you turn for comfort other than God when you're going through trials? Share some examples.
4. What have you learned so far, on your journey as a Christ-follower, about relying on temporary things or situations rather than God as you go through tough times?
5. What is the difference between finding your identity in God vs finding your identity in the world?
6. In James 1:9-10, why can the lowly boast in their exaltation and the privileged in their humiliation? What do these two have in common?
7. What is it about God, that nothing else can compare to Him, not even great wealth?
8. How have these three verses (9-11) challenged you? What is your plan for applying this passage to your life? What needs to change in your life in light of these verses? Think of someone in your life that you can challenge with this message.

Whether you are rich or poor in your own eyes (lacking what you need to be satisfied or known for), your identity is still in the Lord.



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June 12, 2016

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