

Money, Time, and a Crown

James 1:9-12

Comparing James 1:2 with James 1:9

The instruction introduced in verse 2 is restated with different vocabulary in verse 9. This instruction can be paraphrased, *Choose your delights*:

- 1:2 – “count it all joy”
- 1:9 – “Let the... brother glory”

Thus, it can be understood that verses 9 through 11 are examples of adopting God’s perspective on our difficulties.

A. The Rich and Poor Tested Differently (1:9-11)

1. How is the lowly brother made to rise?

- a. From context - He is tested by his _____ for his own benefit.
- b. By implication - He was given a highly privileged _____ in Christ the moment he believed on Christ, and this position is so much higher than anything his is accustomed to the physical and social realms he lives in.

2. How is the lofty brother brought low?

- a. From context - He is tested by his _____ for his own benefit.
- b. By implication - He was brought down to an _____ with all members of the church the moment he believed on Christ, and this brought him down to the same level of humility as everyone who has abandoned all self-sufficiency and trusted entirely on the merits of Christ for salvation.

3. Why should the rich celebrate humiliation?

- a. Like a flower, his riches are _____.
- b. Like a flower, this life is _____.

Comparing James 1:2-3 with James 1:12

The word for a test (*peirasmos*) is repeated. Various translations of this word may be used:

- “trial”
- “temptation”
- “test”
- 1:2 - “trials” are the occasion for taking delight
- 1:12 – “temptation” endured brings a blessing

Perseverance in the face of testing is intended and rewarded:

- 1:3 – God’s plan for allowing tests is to build patience/endurance in us
- 1:12 – God’s plan for us after we pass our tests is to reward us

Thus, it can be understood that verse 12 is an encouragement to believers who are engaged in the struggle to consider their difficulties as blessing.

B. The Blessing of Passing Our Tests (1:12)

1. The summary beatitude: *“Blessed is the man...”*

- a. What sort of man is blessed? The one who endures the _____ of this life.
- b. Why is he blessed? Because he will be _____.
- c. How can we know? The Lord has _____.

**The New Testament on Rewards*

- How the evaluation will work – 1 Cor. 3:10-15, 4:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:20-23; Col. 3:23-25
 - The _____ of a believer will be evaluated by Christ, and a fair reward will be given for faithful service, with the primary focus on the attitude of our hearts while we serve.
- Where and when the evaluation will take place – 2 Cor. 4:17-5:10; Rom. 14:10-12
 - At the bema seat of _____, after this life, after the resurrection of church-age believers at the rapture or when a believer meets the Savior face to face.
- What are some of the rewards that will be given?
 - Crown of life – for those who faithfully endure hardship – James 1:12; Rev. 2:10
 - Imperishable crown – for the disciplined and self-controlled – 1 Cor. 9:25
 - Crown of righteousness – for those who love Christ’s appearing – 2 Tm. 4:8
 - Crown of glory – for elders who serve the church well – 1 Pet. 5:4
 - Crown of rejoicing – believers you have led to the Lord and trained – 1 Thess. 2:19

2. The description of approval: *“those who love Him”*

- a. What does this warn against? _____ God in order to _____ Him.
- b. Why would you love the Lord? Because He _____ me.