

James and Sin

James 4:7-10

Introduction:

- A. James expresses his concern for sinners.
 - 1. Need cleansing. (vs. 8)
 - a. Because sin is dirty. (cf. 2 Cor 7:1; Peter 2:20)
 - b. To make a glorious church. (Eph. 5:25-27)
 - 2. Need conversion (KJV) or turning (NKJV). (ch. 5:19,20)
- B. James discusses three important **aspects** of every person's sin.
 - 1. Its Beginning.
 - 2. Its Operation.
 - 3. Its End.

Discussion:

II. Sin Begins Within Ourselves. (ch. 1:13-15).

- A. We cannot blame God.
 - 1. God only gives good gifts. (v. 17)
 - 2. God gave his word to save us, not temptations to lure us. (v.18)
- B. We cannot pass the buck anyone.
 - 1. Not to wife like Adam. (Gen. 3:12)
 - 2. Not to parents like Israelites and Calvinists. (Ezek. 18:20, 21)
 - 3. Not even to Satan like Eve. (Gen. 3:13; cf. 2 Thess. 2:9-10).
- C. We cannot even blame it on strong temptation.
 - 1. Temptation is powerless unless we give in to it. (ch. 1:14).
 - 2. Temptation cannot overpower us against our will (cf. 1 Cor. 10:12).

III. Sin Operates In Many Ways.

- A. By growing on us. (ch. 1:15).
- B. By what we say and do.
 - 1. Like showing partiality. (ch. 2:8,9).
 - 2. Like offending in one point of law. (ch. 2:8-11).
 - 3. Like speaking evil of brethren. (ch. 4:11).
 - 4. Like boasting of tomorrow. (ch. 4:13-16).
- C. By what we do not say and do. (ch. 4:17).
 - 1. Not enough to believe right, must do right. (Jas. 1:25; 2:14-26)
 - 2. Not enough to oppose evil, must do good. (ch. 2:14-16).
 - 3. Not enough to have no fellowship with darkness, must actively reprove it. (cf. Eph. 5:11).

IV. Sin Ends in Death. (1:15; 5:20).

- A. Dead even while living. (Eph. 2:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:6).
- B. Dead for all eternity, yet conscious. (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 21)

Conclusion:

- A. Sin does not have to bring forth death. (5:19,20).
- B. Sin can be washed away. (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9,10).
 - 1. Penitent alien sinners are washed at baptism. (Acts. 22:16).
 - 2. Penitent Christians are washed at confession & prayer. (1 John 5:7-9).
 - a. Purpose of confession is not to reveal sin, but acknowledge it.
 - b. Purpose of confessing is because others know it. (Jas. 5:16).