ENDURING TEMPTATION

Scripture Reading: James 1:12-18

Introduction:
1. Anything in life worth accomplishing will have obstacles that must be endured.
2. We have the great desire to endure temptation that we may please God.

I. KEEP FOCUSED ON THE GOAL AHEAD -vs. 12
   A. WE WILL STAND IN JUDGMENT
      1. We will receive according to what we have done (2Co 5:10)
      2. The crown of life has been promised to those who endure (Mk 8:35; 2Ti 4:6-8)

   B. TO OBTAIN THE PRIZE, WE PRESS ON (Ph 3:12-14)
      1. Paul pressed on to the goal of heaven (Ph 3:12-14, 20)
      2. Paul continued to fight the good fight (1Co 9:24-27)

II. DON'T BLAME GOD
   A. GOD DOES NOT TEMPT ANYONE
      1. God desires for man to chose life (Ez 18:30-32; Jn 10:10; Mt 11:28-30; He 4:8-11)
      2. It is the devil who tempts man (Jn 8:44; 2Co 2:11; Ep 6:10-ff)

   B. MAN TRIES TO BLAME GOD
      1. E.g. -Adam (Ge 3:12)
      2. People claim they cannot avoid sin. They were “born this way”.

III. KEEP PERSONAL DESIRES IN CHECK
    A. NOT ALL DESIRE IS BAD -E.g. (1Ti 3:1)
    B. DESIRE IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SIN
       1. Eve -saw the tree was desirable
       2. King Ahab desired Naboth's vineyard
       3. King David desired Bathsheba
       4. Achan desire the accursed things from Jericho

IV. KNOW WHERE THE ROAD LEADS
    A. THE SEPARATION FROM GOD -Is 59:1, 2
       1. God can hear; God can save.
       2. It is the sins of man that have caused the separation
a. E.g. -King Saul  
b. One is no longer walking in the light; he is separated from God’s grace -1Jn 1:7

B. THE ETERNAL DEATH -Re 20:14, 15  
1. If man remains in sin till death, he will be eternally separated from God.  
2. He will be cast in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone (Re 21:8b)

Conclusion:  
1. Our ultimate goal is heaven itself.  
2. When we focus on the goal, all temptations will pale in comparison.  
3. Thus, we can overcome!