

ENDURING TEMPTATION

Scripture Reading: James 1:12-18

Introduction:3

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 choose 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!