

James 1:9-11

Eradicate: Worldly Wealth will Wither

Introduction: The Logic of James

1. Count it all joy in trials (**James 1:2-3**) // (**vv 9-11**)
2. Our text says the same thing with two examples
3. The poor and the wealthy are under a test and a trial

Main Point: Impoverished Christian, boast with joyful exaltation in your lowly trial and test. Wealthy Christian, boast with joyful humility in your lofty trial and test.

Biblical Economics for the Rich and Poor

1. The Christian Church – True Unity in Diversity
2. The poor and the rich are joined in Christ
3. The Secular World: Poverty is something to avoid at all costs; seek wealth with all energy and might
 - a. Conservatism: Looks down on poor, pull self up
 - b. Liberalism: Wealth is gained only by greed; covets
 - c. There are Righteous rich and poor
4. Paradoxical: The Poor are Rich and the Rich are Poor
 - a. This is biblical economics – both are tests
 - b. Both are meant to untie our souls from the world and unite our souls to Christ by faith in humility
5. The Lord desires us to have an eternal perspective over the temporal and boast in their true spiritual positions

The Privileged Position of the Lowly Believer (v 9)

1. Literally *the brother of low degree*
 - a. Broader category than money: unskilled, discouragement, depression, weakness of faith
 - b. Lowliness is one of the various trials in life, a test
 - c. Reveals the real treasure in your heart
2. God has a special place in His heart for the Poor
 - a. **See Proverbs 14:31, 22:22-23, 31:9; Luke 6:20-21**
 - b. The lowly have an advantage: They must depend on others
 - c. It is easier to beg God for mercy when you have learned to beg for bread
3. Dangers of Poverty: Complaining, Self-pitying, Covet, Satan prods the world to tell the poor they are nobody
4. The Church's Position: Welcome and Care, Impartiality (**James 2:1-4**)

5. The Command: Boast in their exaltation (lit. *height*)
 - a. Belief in Christ places you in the heavens, seated with Christ (**Ephesians 2:4-7**)
 - b. Lowly Christians are God's children, saved by grace
 - c. Lowly Christians know God! (**Js 2:5, Rom 8:16-17**)
6. The Secret of Contentment – An Eternal Perspective (**Philippians 4:11-13**)

The Paltry Position of the Lofty Brother (v 10)

1. James encourages humility in the wealthy believer
 - a. Rejoice in Christ, not in earthly gain
 - b. Salvation is not through wealth (**Matthew 19:21-26**)
2. Money is given to the Christian for him to demonstrate to the world the surpassing worth of Christ
3. Danger for the Wealthy: Pride, Greed, Envy, Anxiety, Abandonment of Christ
4. Place your trust in the Lord (**Jer 9:23-24**) and take hold of Christ and His Kingdom (**Matthew 13:44-46**)
5. The Secret of Spiritual Riches: Know that you are what you are by the grace of Christ, not material possessions

The Prevailing Position of Two Humble Brothers (vv 10a-11)

1. All is temporal and passing, fading
2. Both the lowly and the lofty go to the grave
3. What are you pursuing? Either Christ or the world
 - a. No one can serve two masters (**Matthew 6:24**)
 - b. Trust in possessions is foolish (**Prv 18:11, 23:4-5**)
4. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness
5. One day it will all pass away, therefore lay up treasures in heaven (**Matthew 6:19-21**)