

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 1:16-18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Considering the Goodness of God”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: To The Text

James has been very direct in telling us about what it is really like to be a Christian in reality. To be doing what Christianity says...

- We are Now Bondservants of God vv. 1
- With Trials and Tests we are made Mature vv. 2-4
- We Need Wisdom for the Trials! vv. 5-8
- What's Wrong with Money? vv. 9-12
- Why am I being Tempted? vv. 13-15

“Considering the Goodness of God”

At this very moment, you are receiving the benefits of God.
Because God is Good

Matthew 19:16-22

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will

have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of the Text vv. 16-18

“Do not be **deceived**, my beloved brethren. Every **good gift** and every **perfect gift** is from above, and comes down from **the Father of lights**, with whom there is no **variation** or **shadow of turning**. Of His own will He **brought us forth** by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of **firstfruits** of His **creatures**.”

“Considering the Goodness of God”

1.) We Need to Think with Intelligence vv. 16

Do not be **deceived**, my beloved brethren.

Last Week:

*The Source of Temptation - What is Evil
the world, the flesh, and Satan*

This Week:

*Contrasted Now By the Goodness of God
And its origin and His divine will*

1a.) Deception is a Real Internal Enemy of Ours vv. 16a

Do not be **deceived**, my beloved brethren.

This command from James is a warning
that links verses 1-15 to 16 and 21

Don't be deceived regarding trials, and temptations

* **deceived** grk 4105 **planao (plan-ah'-o)**;
to be pulled from or to wander away from the course,

The picture is:

Deception is like a seductress that pulls you from the path and then destroys you

like a poisonous viper - it's silent, it's hard to detect, it's a killer, it's designed to mislead you

Ephesians 4:14 KJV

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Emotional Experience

(the warm and fuzzies)

over

Biblical Truth

(the firm foundation)

Deception assumes Truth

**by its very presence, it proves that
absolute truth exists - absolutely!!!**

* **Do not be** grk 3361 **me (may);**
a negative, continual sense. Prone to keep on doing,
- now stopping it and continuing to keep on stopping it

Having a tendency and willingness to be deceived
(this is human, not of God)

Example:

Romans 1:18-22

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,....²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Revelation 13:14a

THE TRIBULATION TO COME

...and the Devil deceived those who dwelt upon the face of the earth

**As long as Satan is at work...
deception will be his tool of choice**

Why is Deception above all, the most damning craft of Satan,
and of the human nature?
Because it leads a person, a people, a nation, a world away from God

Revelation 19:20a
...Satan worked signs and wonders by which he deceives

Titus 3:3
For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures,
living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

STOP IT!
Now through Christ - being Christians -
we don't have to be deceived any longer

#1
Galatians 6:7
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

#2
1 Corinthians 15:33
Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

#3
1 Corinthians 6:9
Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived.**
Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

The truth will clear your vision,
liberating you completely

John 16:13
the Spirit of truth... He will guide you into all truth... and He will tell you of
things to come.

John 8:32
"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Verse 16

My beloved brethren

“Beloved” meaning that we are loved by God (period)

1c.) We're all Deceived until we come to Christ vv. 16c

John 3:18-19

"He who believes in Christ is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

#4

Luke 21:8

And Jesus said: "Take heed, **Do not be deceived**. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and, 'The time is drawing near.' Therefore do not go after them.

“Considering the Goodness of God”

2.) God is The Origin of all that is Good vv. 17

Every **good gift** and every **perfect gift** is from above, and comes down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no **variation** or **shadow of turning**.

2a.) Deception: God is Blessing You Right now vv. 17a

Every **good gift** and every **perfect gift** is from above

Do Not be Deceived
about the Origin of Good

* **good gift** grk 1394 dosis (dos'-is);
the act of giving what is very good, the very best, the very right thing

Good & Goodness Originate with God

The trials are good, because they are from God (except sinful temptation)

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for **good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

* **perfect gift** **grk 1434 dorema (do'-ray-mah);**
the benefits of having received what He has given

"Good" is very Good
- **"Gift" is the way He gives the Gift**
"Perfect" is Completely Perfect
- **"Gift" is the benefiting kind of Gifts**

Psalm 84:11

...no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

He Loves to Bless You

Everything that Exists

that is not sinful is from God

Everything - The Beach, The Mountains, Of course
Volleyball, Water Skiing, Ballooning... Synchronized swimming

ALL OF A SUDDEN

I see two thrones. His Throne and My Heart
Only Good comes from Him - Temptation from me

Perfect gift

2 Corinthians 12:7-9a NIV

7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made **perfect** in weakness." Therefore I will boast

Without my weakness, I would never see HIS strength

...is from above,

In Contrast to Verse 15 - the birth of sin

We have been born from above -
from holiness - born of God

Psalm 73:1
Truly God is **good**...

Galatians 5:22a
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, **goodness**

Psalm 23:6
Surely **goodness** and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Do Not be Deceived about the Person of God

“Considering the Goodness of God”

2b.) The Source of all Goodness

vv. 17b

And comes down from **the Father of lights**,

- * **the Father of light(s)**, grk **5457 phos (foce)**;
the originator of illumination(s) rays of lights; compare 5316, fire light, sun light,
reflected light, generated light (bulbs)

He is the Creator of Lights

Genesis 1:14-19

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day

and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

1 John 1:5

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Where God is not,
there is absolute darkness

Matthew 25:30

and the unbelieving shall go into (**exoteros skotos**)
outer darkness. Where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

exoteros skotos

* **outer grk 1857 (ex-o'-ter-os);**
the greatest exterior:

* **darkness grk 4655 skotos (skot'-os);**
total obscurity, absolute darkness.

2b.) The Unchanging Goodness of God

vv. 17c

With whom there is no **variation** or **shadow of turning**.

The Holy Spirit Here Uses Scientific terms
to Describe God's Nature

* **no variation grk 3883 parallage (par-al-lag-ay');**
no mutations **or orbital changes**. Never change course
unable to be fickle or undecided.

THE SUN AND THE MOON

Mutate and Alter Course

COMPARED TO HOW STABLE GOD IS

The constellations change / the sun is burning out /
light is slowing down

Isaiah 51:6

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished.

He cannot change **who** He is or **how** He is
(He is immutable)

He is the Absolutely Constant
Concerning His Goodness - It Cannot Change

Malachi 3:6a

"For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you're not consumed,

The Ancient Greeks

said of the planets and stars, "they wandered across the heavens like someone on a journey who had become lost along the way"

The Greek word they used for wander is rooted in the exact same Greek word found in verse 16 -- deceived / wandering

Jude 1:12-13

REGARDING THOSE WHO DECEIVE AND ARE DECEIVED

These are spots in your *pot lucks*, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They're like clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; they are like the raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars** for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

No Need to Wander Around,

- Because God Doesn't

- * **turning.** Grk 5157 trope (trop-ay'); rotations which lead to shadows. An eclipse of the sun or moon or celestial light. **To be turn in to shadows**

The shadows that appear due to an eclipse

The Word of God Removes the Shadows

2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

God Cannot Be Eclipsed by Changes

Exodus 33:17-19

So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." ¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all **My goodness** pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

1 Kings 8:66

On the eighth day Solomon sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the **good** that the LORD had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.

“Considering the Goodness of God”

3.) God's Plan is Good for Our Lives

vv. 18

Of His own will He **brought us forth** by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of **firstfruits** of His **creatures**.

“Of His Own Will”

The will of God is Good & Awesome (My will is another thing)

* **brought us forth** grk 616 apokueo (ap-ok-oo-eh'-o);
to breed forth by transference. To speak generation. To
bring forth a new life by speaking a word

1 Peter 1:23

having **been** born again, (recreated)not of corruptible (polluted) seed but incorruptible (pure seed),
through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

“Of His Own Will”

That time and events have been determined
to culminate -- for his glory

“Consider the Goodness of God”

3a.) His Goodness, 1 of 2 Keys of Evangelism

vv. 18a

Of His own will He **brought us forth**

The Law of God

to drive us to God

The Goodness of God

to humble us before God

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the
goodness of God leads you to repentance?

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has
begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God's Plan is Good for Our Lives

3b.) God has a Long Term In Mind for Us

vv. 18b

By the word of truth,

that we might be a kind of **firstfruits** of His **creatures**.

1. He Plants the **Seed** in us
2. Then **Growth** takes Place
3. Eventually the **Harvest** Comes

The Firstfruits are in Association with the Harvest

* **firstfruits** grk 536 **aparche (ap-ar-khay')** ;
the beginnings of the sacrifice. taking the best, then making the best of the best the offering

The Jewish festival of firstfruits

* **creatures** grk 2938 **ktisma (ktis'-mah)**;
an original creation

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1 Corinthians 15:49-52

And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. ⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Consider the Goodness of God”
So that you might be “overwhelmed” with Him

The Bible Says:

Romans 11:22

consider

the goodness and the severity of God: on those who do not severity;
but to those who believe, goodness,

The Bible Says:

Romans 2:4

understand!,

that it is the goodness of God that leads you to change your thinking?

The Bible Says:

Isaiah 1:18

"Come,

and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, (they fire engine red) they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, (florescent red) they shall be like pure wool.

The Bible Says:

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Look,

...as workers together with God, I also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For God says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, (ALL YOUR CRIES) and in the day of salvation I have helped you. (OPENED YOUR EYES)

" **LOOK**, now is the accepted time; **LOOK**, now is the day of salvation.

The Bible Says:

Luke 9:48

whoever

receives Me receives the Father who sent Me.

The Bible Says:

1 Chronicles 16:34

give thanks

to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.