

## **SERMON NOTES**

September 5, 2010

R. Bryan Richardson, preaching

### **Human History Reclaimed**

James 1:1-27

**James shows us what is now possible for human history. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can now live in a universe in which the following is true:**

- Trials work to the good:  
"...the testing of your faith develops perseverance." v. 3
  
- Chaos does not rule:  
"...he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." v. 6
  
- Circumstances do not define:  
"The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower." vv. 9-10
  
- Everyone answers to the goodness of God:  
"...God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone..." v. 13

#### **We can respond in only one viable way:**

- Adopt the posture of listening:  
"...Take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry..." v. 19
  
- Act from that posture:  
"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." v. 22

## **The table of the Lord places us in a posture of listening to God.**

James 1:2-12

**2**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3**because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **4**Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **5**If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. **6**But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7**That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; **8**he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

**9**The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. **10**But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. **11**For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

**12**Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.