

**"THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR EVILS
AND ALL OUR BLESSINGS"**

Introduction

1. James was the brother of Christ
2. Theme: Why do we have to suffer evil?
3. James looks at this familiar problem.

1. THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR EVILS

- 1) It is not God or the religion He has given us:
 - (i) v.13 shows that God is often blamed
 - (ii) Religion is often blamed

ILLUSTRATION: Prof. Richard Dawkins' new book "The God Delusion".
- 2) This no new thing: God often blamed:
 - (i) The view of the ancients
 - (ii) More modern attacks on God.
- 3) Is there any sense in which God is said in scripture to "tempt" man?
 - (i) e.g. Abraham: Genesis 22
 - (ii) "Tempt" has 2 meanings. Explain.
 - (iii) God "tempts" = puts our faith on trial for our good – never to allure or seduce us

OBSERVE: What good comes to those who endure the trials of life! (v.12)
- 4) The real source of our evils explained:
 - (i) v.14: "lust": what it is. **Illustration:** tinder
 - (ii) sin offers sweetness to our corruption:

Illustration: Eve; Samson + Delilah; Judas
 - (iii) lust "conceives" sin. Explain.
 - (iv) sin matures into "death". Explain.

DOCTRINE: The real source of all mankind's evils is SIN. It pays "wages".

APPLICATION: What you most need is deliverance from the guilt + power of sin.

2. THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR BLESSINGS

- 1) This is clearly + memorably stated: v.16-17:
 - (i) it is a great error to attribute evil to God
 - (ii) God is the author of all our mercies
- 2) These mercies are of 2 kinds:
 - (i) mercies of Common Grace;
 - (ii) mercies of Saving Grace.
- 3) Mercies of Common Grace:
 - (i) our life and all the supports for it
 - (ii) life's necessities: "food and raiment"
 - (iii) homes and shelter
 - (iv) marriage + children (not for all): Texts
 - (v) health and strength

APPLICATION: It is our duty to praise God for all these.
- 4) Mercies of Saving Grace – higher still:
 - (i) an inspired Book: texts to show this:
 - (ii) knowledge of God: His glorious and unchanging character (v.17)
 - (iii) The love of Christ in the gospel:
 - a. His Person
 - b. His work
 - c. His gospel offer
 - d. His power
 - (iv) The Crown of Glory: here referred to.

DOCTRINE: All our mercies come from God

APPLICATION: The best way to thank God is to believe in His gospel

CONCLUSION

This is what we have in Psalm 116:12-14.
Have you done so?

PSALM

115: 12 – 18

148: 1 – 14

116: 9 – 16