

That which is worth it

[Jas 1:9-11 ESV] 9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

I. Intro

- A. Topics so far: Steadfastness, and gaining of wisdom
- B. Remember, this letter was written to those in the diaspora, believers persecuted for their faith.
- C. The double minded man is unstable in all his ways:
 - 1. That leads us to the next truth
 - 2. What is it that brings focus on that which God would have me focus?
 - 3. What warnings
- D. So, what is worthy of our time, energy, our life?
 - 1. That which is worth it will be measured in the eternal.
 - 2. That which is worth it will match God's calling and investment
 - 3. That which is worth it will last.

II. Text

- A. Verse 9: boast on the work of Christ in your life
 - 1. Don't wallow in your lack
 - 2. Don't blame others for your situation
 - 3. Point to Christ's provision
- B. Verse 10:
 - 1. The wealthy should be humble in Spirit and directed by dependance on God.
 - 2. We will never have enough when we are chasing dollars, but Christ is always enough.
- C. Verse 11
 - 1. Physical things are temporary
 - 2. The fading away of things are an indication they were not worth the investment

III. Points

- A. Warnings for the Wealthy
 - 1. Money:
 - a) [1Ti 6:9-10 ESV] 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.
 - b) [Mat 19:23-25 ESV] 23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"
 - 2. You see from these two passages that it is not wealth in and of itself that is the problem, it is the heart of man.
 - a) The desire of the heart of man can cause a problem with money
 - b) Wealth many times gets in the way of your dependance on God.
 - c) Wealth is blessed to some, but for a purpose
 - d) Luke 12:35-48
 - (1) [Luk 12:48 ESV] 48 But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

- (2) Or, as Spiderman says in a comic book in 1962: With great power comes great responsibility.
3. The warning is this: Wealthy are expected to depend on Jesus just as everyone else, so live as if everything belongs to him so you do not fall in the trap of self reliance and sufficiency.
- B. Focus for the Follower
1. Our focus must be on Christ and His will for our life.
 2. Use all your resources to serve the cause of Christ, and focus on KINGDOM WORK.
 3. Kingdom: everything under the sovereign rule of the king.
 - a) We have a king
 - b) He is ruling
 - c) Our life, resources, and mission are His!
 4. We should focus on the thing God puts before us to focus on.
 5. Kingdom minded work is always pointing to Christ as our source and our solution
 6. If your focus is on Jesus, and you are trusting in Him:
 - a) Then you will trust Him for the resources to accomplish His plan
 - b) Then you will live a life yielded to Him
 - c) Then you will renew your dependance on Him every day
 7. Our focus must be on what God puts before us to focus on.
 8. Politician going to Washington:
 - a) Mr. Smith goes to Washington: Jimmy Stewart's character was a good man, that went to Washington DC to make a difference
 - b) He found corruption and misguided actions from politicians and fell into a scheme
 - c) I've had a conversation with a man elected to represent Arkansas in the US House Of Representatives, and His focus was on not becoming what DC produced.
 - d) It is nearly impossible for a man to be given power and for that power to not corrupt.
 - e) Same with wealth and its influence on the believer
 9. You are first and foremost a follower of Christ, His disciple. Focus on HIM
- C. Vision for Victory
1. With the warnings in place and the focus redirected, we can see a beautiful vision of victory
 2. God has blessed you, that means you have much at your disposal to bless with
 3. Walk the path God has for you, and serve him the entire way:
 - a) [Rom 8:35-39 ESV] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - b) [Phl 4:10-14 ESV] 10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. 14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.
 4. Let your surrender and focus drive your victory!
- IV. Close
- A. Don't run away from the blessings God has for you

- B. Use the blessings God has for you to further the kingdom work and find victory
- C. Head the warnings, and have the MIND OF CHRIST!
- D. Make your life about the things that are worthy of our time, and talent.