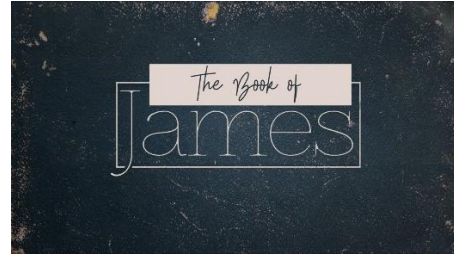


Eastridge Church
Sermon Study Questions

Series – The Book of James

Week 2: Every Good Giving

Passage: James 1:9-18



Conversation Starter:

What is the most memorable (good, bad or strange) gift you have received?

Re-read James 1:9-18

At first impression it seems as though James takes a strange detour as we start reading in verse 9. As Ben pointed out, it is important that we see how these verses fit within the context of James' original audience (ie. the persecuted and scattered church). *In your own words, what does James mean when he tells those in humble positions to "take pride in their high position" and the rich to "take pride in their humiliation"? What is the link between these two seemingly opposed conditions?*

Ben highlighted the word **honor** in the sermon. Although it may seem strange that God would honor us, the fact is that vs 12 states clearly that those who persevere will receive the "crown of life". *Is perseverance enough to be honored with the crown of life? What is a critical attribute for those that hope to receive God's promise? What does it look like practically to persevere in the midst of trial?*

A common stereotype that many have of God is that He is orchestrating things to try and trap or catch us so that He can punish us. As believers we know this is not true and verses 13-15 are very clear that God does not tempt anyone. *What does James point to in these verses for the cause of our temptation? How have you seen verse 15 play out in your life or in the lives of others? In your experience, is the "birth" imagery that is used too dramatic or accurate to your experience?*

Finally, verses 17-18 show us that God has a different "birth" process for those that put their trust in Him. *From these verses, what are two important attributes of God that you see and where does this new birth begin?*

Close your time in prayer. Ask that God would give you strength to endure the challenges that are before you. Ask that He would help you to keep your eyes fixed on Him, the one who gives every good and perfect gift.