

The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

1

No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. (Proverbs 12:21)

So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

(Ecclesiastes 2:20–23)

2

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James 1:16–18

3

God is Good

1. Don't be deceived: God doesn't send temptation (v.13-16)

4

"I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things." (Isaiah 45:5-7)

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father." (Matthew 10:29)

5

God is Good

1. Don't be deceived: God doesn't send temptation (v.13-16)
2. Remember God's character: He only does good (v.17)

6

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

(Genesis 50:20)

God is Good

1. Don't be deceived: God doesn't send temptation (v.13-16)
2. Remember God's character: He only does good (v.17)
3. The evidence: God chose us in order to give us life (v.18)

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