

The Trial – Temptation Situation

Inv. Song: Yield Not to Temptation 798

Scripture Reading: James 1:12

- Intro. 1) Today ... we shall study a Greek word: terasmos
- 2) Translated: Temptation
- a) A bad word
- (1) Temptation is of the devil
- (2) We don't want to be tempted
- (3) Jesus prayed: "Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" Mt 6:13
- b) "terasmos" is a bad word
- 3) Also translated: Trial
- a) A good word
- (1) Trials are good for us to face
- (2) Trials are allowed by God
- (3) We prove our faithfulness through trials
- (4) God tried Abraham – he proved to be faithful
- b) "terasmos" is a good word
- 4) So – in this word we have a double meaning – A good connotation, A bad connotation
- A "Trial – Temptation" Situation - God tries our faithfulness
Satan tempts our sinfulness
- 5) Old Marshall Keeble explained it this way:
"God voted for us, Satan voted against us, we break the tie."
- 6) This is true!
- Satan uses difficulty to lead us astray
God uses difficulty to build character
- Winter "tempts" a peach tree. (shows its flaw)
Winter "proves" a pine tree. (shows its strength)
The sun "tempts" a stick of butter. (makes it weak)

The sun “proves” concrete. (makes it solid)
Terasmos “tempts” a faithless man.
Terasmos “proves” a faithful man.

- 7) Terasmos – translated both “Trial” and “Temptation”
- 8) We’re talking about a “Trial – Temptation Situation”
- 9) The points of our lesson today will be:
 - The Source of Temptations
 - Help for Temptations
 - The Benefit of Temptations

I. The Source of Temptations

A. James 1:13 vs 14

B. Satan is behind temptations

1. Maybe not directly – he is not omni-present
2. But indirectly – he has cast many tempting allurements

C. What kinds of things cause one to be tempted?

1. Riches

a. I Tim 6:9 vs 10

b. The “desire for riches” has prompted many bad decisions

2. People

a. Acts 20:19 (here’s our word)

b. Think of the ways that people can tempt us to sin:

1) Job’s Friends (discouraged)

2) Nehemiah’s Aggressors (distracted)

3) Worldly Friends (well – what are they like?)
Proverbs 4:14-17

4) Riches – People – What else?

a. "... each victory will help you ...

b. ... some other to win"

2. God wants you to assume His nature:

holiness – love – truth – goodness – patience – mercy – humility

3. We develop these qualities through the trials of life.

a. There's no other way to get it

b. There's no easy way around it

B. Peter expressed it this way:

1. I Peter 1:6-7

2. James 1:2-4,12

Concl 1) Terasmos is a paradoxical word
Good or Bad – depending on your point of view

2) We have seen: The Source of Temptation
 Help for Temptation
 The Benefit of Temptation

3) May we prove Faithful in all our Fiery Trials.