

Sunday, September 17, 2023

God Works; Our Maturity part 1-Trials

James 1:2-4, 16-18,/ Proverbs 3:5-6

Series: Wisdom, Folly and In-between

Wisdom cries out... "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" Wisdom

Yet, another voice cries out so does "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"

Folly Proverbs 9:4&16

Leaving us in the crossroads to take a certain path. Which path will you take?

Please turn to James 1:2-4 & 16-18, pg. 1011 in the Pew Bibles.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And **let** steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

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 first-fruits of his creatures. James 1:16-18

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **do not lean** on your own understanding. In all your ways **acknowledge** him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Main Idea- God's Work, Our Maturity; Trials

Review- Last week, "Law of Liberty" and intro'd our series. Seeing that James 50% of the verses are imperatives: There are 54 imperatives in 108 verses¹, it begs the question, What's the use of the Law as New Testament Believers?

¹ <https://timothysparks.com/2015/06/08/list-of-commands-imperatives-in-the-book-of-james/>

-Set free from the constraints and consequences of the Law because of Christ→ Gospel. Christ fulfilled the righteous requirement for humans to enter into heaven, and then imputes, declares it, to us.

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith– Philippians 3:9

The 3 uses of the Law. 1. The Pedagogical Use, 2. The Civil Use

3. The Normative Use

The third purpose of the law is to reveal what is pleasing to God. As born again children of God, the law enlightens us as to what is pleasing to our Father, whom we seek to serve. The Christian delights in the law as God Himself delights in it. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). This is the highest function of the law, to serve as an instrument for the people of God to give Him honor and glory.²

God's priority is his Glory! What gives him glory? Our maturity! When God's people REFLECT God's ways! My hope & prayer is that we would answer the call of wisdom; to *speak and act as those who are free* to reflect true humanity!

God's Work, Our Maturity; Trials

Imperatives in our texts in James & proverbs; Consider, Let, Do not be deceived- from James & Trust, Do not lean, & Acknowledge from Proverbs 3
6 imperatives to walk in the way of wisdom.

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And **let**

² <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/threefold-use-law>

steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

Count/Consider. Consider What? Joy in trials.

All joy- Consider it pure joy, great joy, wholly joyful, opportunity for great joy, Consider it a sheer gift.

Why? It tests your faith which produces steadfastness/endurance.
-Trials produces Godly character in us.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And **let** steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

2. **Let.** Let What? Let Endurance do its thing.

Why? That you may be whole.

This is the work of God.

What? Our Wholeness.

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 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. Philippians 4:11-12

Why? Because he is Good and gives good gifts for his glory.

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 first-fruits of his creatures. James 1:16-18

James 1:16-18→ 3. **Do not be deceived.**

Deceived about what? That every good gift is from God.

Why? Because he does not change in his love for us.

How? Of his own will he saved us to be fruitful. Therefore...

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **do not lean** on your own understanding. In all your ways **acknowledge** him, and he will make straight your paths.

Trust (Next week, Faith works- Rick)

Do Not Lean

The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9

A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?

Proverbs 20:24

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **do not lean** on your own understanding. In all your ways **acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths**

Acknowledge! And he will...

Review

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Gospel→ Communion