

Wanted and Unwanted Births

The Christian and Temptation

James 1:13-18

Introduction

I. Unwanted Births. 1:13-15

A. What is NOT the Source of Temptation. 1:13

1. God never tempts people to sin. 13
2. Conclusions
 - a. We are all continually being tempted to sin.
 - b. Never attribute being tempted to sin to God.
 - c. God is untemptable by any evil.
 - d. So God is never tempted to sin.
 - e. God never actively lures anyone to sin.
 - f. If you are being tempted, don't blame God.
3. God is untemptable by any evil.
 - a. Not by morally evil people.
 - b. Not by morally evil thoughts, speech, or action.
 - c. Not by bad things that happen.
4. How is "tempted" used in the New Testament?
 - a. The devil entices people to sin. (Matt. 4:1, 3)
 - b. The Pharisees tested Jesus to trap Him. (Matt. 16:1; 19:3)
 - c. The sons of Israel tested God to see how much they could get away with without consequences. (1 Cor. 10:9; Heb. 3:9)
 - d. God never entices people to sin. (James 1:13)
 - e. God does evaluate people in hopes they will pass the test (John 6:6; Heb. 11:17; Rev. 3:10)

B. What IS the source of Temptation? 1:14

1. The 1st step in temptation: We are tempted when we are lured by our own lust!

C. Births you don't want. 1:15

1. The 2nd step in temptation - Conception. 15
2. The 3rd step in temptation - Birth of Sin
3. The 4th step in temptation - Birth of Death. Example - David

II. Wanted Births. 1:16-18

A. God, the Source of All Good. 1:16-17

1. The warning against deception. 16
2. The description of good: good thing; perfect gift
3. The Source of good: From the Father of lights 17

B. The GOAL of the good God. 1:18

1. The Divine Choice. He exercised His will.
2. The Divine Begetting. He brought us forth.
3. The Divine Method. By the word of truth.
4. The Divine Goal. So they would be His first fruits
5. What was God's plan?
 - a. God chose to give spiritual birth through the message about Jesus to Jewish believers first. Why?
 - b. So they would be a kind of firstfruits (down payment) from among all the nations of people He had created!
6. Which birth process will you choose?
 - a. Children of Lust?
 - b. Children of God?

Instead of yielding to our lusts, we should devote our energy to New Births in Jesus!

But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

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