

JAMES

Live your ~~own~~ the truth

OPENING UP



What is your most prized possession and why? Another way to think about this might be, if your house was burning down and you were only able to save one thing, what would it be and why? (People/Pets excluded)

TEXT



God Over Money | James 1:9-11; 27

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also, will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Mature faith puts possessions in their proper place.

1. In Christ, poverty doesn't define us (v. 9)
2. In Christ, prosperity doesn't define us (vv. 10-11)
3. In Christ, people are more valuable than possessions (v. 27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Many of us today would affirm that living in poverty is deeply difficult, and we wouldn't want to undergo a trial of poverty. But could prosperity, having wealth and affluence, be a trial itself in the opposite direction? What do you think a "trial" of prosperity looks like?
2. We learned from this week's message that those who are in poverty can still boast in their salvation (James 1:9). How do you think those who have little or nothing on earth value and appreciate Christ differently than those who have plenty? What would it look like for you to boast in the abundance of Christ?
3. The second point of this week's message was that mature faith is not defined by prosperity. Have you allowed prosperity to define you? If yes, how so? Why is this a false identity?
4. James reminds us that people are more valuable than possessions Re-read James 1:27. Who are the "orphans and widows" today that James speaks of? What does caring for them in their distress and affliction look like?
5. The Big Idea of this week's message was that mature faith puts possessions in their proper place. How are you demonstrating living faith in Christ with your possessions?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Our world can be very materialistic. It's easy to be distracted from what really matters. Take some time this week to search your heart and ask God to redirect your focus to both Him and others. Ask God to point out a "widow or orphan" that you can care for and encourage. Consider working as a Life Group to adopt someone who is in need in your community.

CLOSING PRAYER



God, thank you for giving us everything we need and so much more. Thank you for giving us the riches of salvation that we can boast in even when times are financially challenging. Help us to be generous with the wealth you have entrusted to us and to fix our eyes upon you and your children. Increase our faith as we trust you with our possessions and put them in their proper place. Amen.