

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for July 18-19 1998

"Who is to Blame?"

Dale Whitehead

James 1:13-18

Not only can trials lead to triumph, those very same trials can also lead to temptation (James 1:2-18).

Typically God receives the blame for temptation. Not that God is accused of such a thing but He is frequently implicated indirectly (Genesis 3:9-13).

James gives five proofs to show that God cannot take the blame for our improper response to trial.

1. The Nature of evil (James 1:13).

God is perfectly separated from sin (Leviticus 19:2, 20:26; Isaiah 6:3).

God is light and no darkness can or will ever be found in Him (1 John 1:5).

2. The Nature of man (James 1:14).

Lust (EPITHUMIA) denotes strong desire.

Our strong human desires can be either good or bad (Luke 22:15, Philippians 1:23, 1 Thessalonians 2:17).

The normal desires of life were given to us by God. These desires must be our servants and not our masters.

Apart from Christ and our yieldedness to Him our fleshly desires will rage out of control.

"Carried away" (EXELKOMENOS) conveys the picture of catching a beast with traps (James 1:14).

"Enticed" (DELEANOMENOS) conveys the picture of catching a fish with bait (James 1:14).