

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for August 8-9 1998

"Who is to Blame?"

Dale Whitehead

James 1:13-18

James gives us five different proofs demonstrating that God is not involved in our desire to commit sin.

The nature of evil (James 1:13)

The nature of man (James 1:14)

The nature of lust (James 1:15-16)

The nature of God (James 1:17)

Every gift that we would consider beneficial and complete is from God and there is no other source for such gifts (James 1:17).

When biblical writers call God "good" they are thinking in general of all those moral qualities which prompt His people to call him "perfect" (Exodus 33:17-19; 34:5-7).

God is not going to hold back good and perfect gifts from those who desire to follow Him and please Him (Matthew 7:7-11; Psalm 1:1-3).

To question God's goodness is to open the door to Satan's temptations (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-5; II Samuel 12:11-12).

"Father of lights" speaks of God as creator. The lights refer to the sun, moon and stars.

THE NATURE OF REGENERATION

We see the subject of "regeneration" introduced with the words, "in the exercise of His will He brought us forth". The NIV says, "He chose to give us birth".

The greatest need of mankind is to be "born again" (John 3:1-21).

Those who are physically alive but spiritually dead can relate to one another

in a meaningful way, even in a pleasing way, but God will always view them as "unclean" and their "righteousnesses" as "filthy rags".

At some point in our lives the gospel must, in some way, come to us and the Lord must take the words of that gospel and make them come alive to us (Romans 1:16).