

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

### **Sermon Notes for August 15-16 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; 2 Samuel 12:11-12).

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 "righteousness" as "filthy rags".

Three basic truths related to regeneration in James 1:18

1. The nature of regeneration

We are born again because God willed it so (2 Timothy 1:9)

2. The means of regeneration

"By the word of truth" literally reads, "Having purposed He brought forth us by word of truth." The "word of truth" would therefore be best understood "as a message that proclaims truth."

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Faith in the gospel message is the means that God uses to bring dead men alive (Romans 1:16).

Paul records the gospel message in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and it is composed of two very important parts.

What the Gospel says about the person of Jesus.

What the Gospel says about the work of Christ.

3. The regeneration of our regeneration

"First fruits" is drawn from the Old Testament Law that designated the first portion of the harvest as belonging to God (Exodus 23:19, Leviticus 23:9-11; Deuteronomy 18:4).