

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

WHY TEMPTATION?

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART TWO OF SIXTY FOUR*

Sometimes we hear the complaint, "If God wants us to do right, why doesn't He just remove all temptation and trials?" Believing that all of God's ways are right, we believe He has a purpose in allowing us to be tried. James says, "Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2,3). Peter says the testing of our faith is more precious than gold (I Peter 1:6,7). The proper use of trials is of more value than removing them.

One result of meeting the trials of life is patience. "Tribulation worketh steadfastness" (Romans 5:3). The Lord taught, "In your patience ye shall win your souls" (Luke 21:19). Many of us "have need of patience, that having done the will of God, ye may receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:36).

While God does not tempt man to do evil (James 1:13), He does allow us to be tested. Our love for Him is tried by those things we must endure or resist for Him. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).

God is not indifferent to our trials. He does not forsake us to Satan. Paul teaches, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it" (I Corinthians 10:13). When we are faced with a severe test of our faith, it is a compliment from God. He sees within us the strength to overcome. He will not allow us to get into a position where we cannot do what is right. Thus James says, "Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations." Instead of complaining that life is a trial, rejoice that a test is available by which your faith can grow and patience can be developed.

(B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257