

Choosing the Good Life

James 1:13-18

I. A living death (James 1:13-16)

- A. Temptation to do evil does not come from God (1:13)
- B. Temptation to do evil comes from our own sinful nature (1:14-15).
 - Fishing/Hunting Illustration: Our temptations come as we are lured away and enticed by our own sin nature (1:14).
 - Birth Illustration: When tempted, our desire “conceives” and “gives birth” to sin which can “grow up” into the “grandchild” of physical death (1:15).
- C. The Warning: Don’t be deceived by sinful desires (1:16).

II. A truly good life (James 1:17-18)

- A. Truly good things all come from God as gifts (17).
 - To discern what is truly good, we must first desire God Himself (Psalm 37:4; 73:25).
 - God is unchanging in his nature.
 - We can trust that everything from God is good.
 - We can enjoy true blessings from God as gifts – without guilt.
- B. The best thing of all is the gift of eternal life (18).
 - *Gave us birth* – If we ever doubt God’s goodness, remember God gave us spiritual birth through the gospel.
 - *Firstfruits* – The goodness of salvation is just the beginning of God’s eternal goodness.