

Home group questions 20th June 2010

Homegroup studies James 1:1-12 When bad things happen 20 June 2010

Introduction

James' letter to the churches is to a people who face trials of many kinds 1:2. This included persecution & much of what he writes is with this in mind. At the same time he is concerned in case the followers of Christ take on the standards & way of life of all those around them thus camouflaging themselves.

- How far are we in danger of adopting the standards, attitudes & lifestyle of the world around us? How? Do you think that the Christian & non-Christian values & way of life are growing wider apart or closer together? In what ways?

To James Christian faith is meaningless unless it affects the way we live. As a result he tackles head on the issue of their suffering, not in a theoretical way but in pointing out how they can best be lived through.

Read James 1:1-12

1. Do you find it shocking or even offensive that James' first statement is to consider it pure joy when you face trials? Why [or why not]? What is his reason for saying this? Is there anything we can do to actually do this when things are difficult?
2. Do you think you have learned from times of difficulty, if so give examples? Have you any experience of hard circumstances being turned into something good? Can you think of any examples in the Bible e.g. Joseph (Genesis 50:20) What does James say will contribute to this?
3. Where can we find help in times of trouble and certainty? Do you have any examples of this in your own life? Why can we be confident that God will hear us? Do bad times tempt us to doubt? What are the dangers of doubt? What is the real cause of doubt?
4. Does our financial status affect how we feel about ourselves? Can it affect our opinion of what God thinks of us? How does Jas counter this? V9 – 12. Does people's wealth affect how we think of them? What should our attitude be to wealth and poverty?

Prayer

Pray about any issues that have arisen through the study.