

WHEN TRIALS COME – SEE REALITY!

James 1:19-27

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: James begins his letter (in 1:2) by addressing the topic of trials and temptations, and for good reason. His readers were Christians forced to leave Jerusalem when persecution came in the aftermath of Stephen's murder (1:1). Needing to depart quickly, many of them lost personal property and treasured possessions. They lost businesses and even the tools of their trade. They're now displaced throughout the Mediterranean world, and they're struggling with all the hassles and aggravations that come when forming a new life in distant lands. Having talked about the difference between trials and temptations (1:2-12 vs. 1:13-18), James now addresses the need to live *in reality* when trials come. But here's the problem: When trials come, it's easy to resort to denial and instantly respond in anger. In the same way that James gave us a pattern for handling trials in 1:2-12, he now gives us a pattern for living *in reality* when trials come. Whereas the first passage (1:2-12), addressed our emotional/intellectual response in trials. This passage (1:19-27) addresses our need to focus on God's Word even as we address reality. Both are important: reality and Scripture.

1. The Problem

James 1:19-21a

2. Receive God's Word

James 1:21b

3. Remain in God's Word

James 1:22-25

4. Reflect God's Word

James 1:26-27

5. Main Idea

6. Takeaways