

The Choice
James 1:13-18

Temptation is the constant _____ of every person. It is one of the 1st topics James addresses in his _____ manual.

James begins with the topic of “_____.” This topic naturally leads to the topic of temptation for 2 reasons. 1st, the Greek word for trial and for temptation is the _____. 2nd, trials often _____ to some temptation prompted by them. Not every temptation is prompted by a trial, but trials often supply the _____ for various temptations to take root and grow.

James writes, when tempted, don’t say “God is tempting me.” Why would a _____ say, “God is tempting me?” Answer: To _____ the stated will of God.

Any desire to disobey the stated word of God is not God’s leadership but our own, internal _____ that, when acted on, leads only to _____ and _____. Rather than believe God sometimes entices us by our circumstances to do the opposite of His word, we are to commit ourselves to the idea that God only presents us with that which is _____ and _____ (perfect).

The pivotal verse of this passage is v. 16: “Don’t be deceived,” or, “_____ being deceived.” It reminds us that this world, controlled by the evil one, exerts a deceptive influence on us 24/7—so much so that we are _____ being deceived and we don’t even realize it. We are already always being deceived by the same _____ as the one first used on Adam and Eve in the garden. “God isn’t _____ and doesn’t want good for you. He is _____ on you.” James knew that Satan knows that if you become convinced that God isn’t good, the chance that you can be tempted to make _____, _____, even evil choices increases exponentially.

The most important decision we must make is, will I be _____ by the world’s deception that God, as revealed in His word, is not good, or will I believe that He is good, and He has _____ and my _____ - _____ in mind?