



Community Bible Church
Pastor Bob DuPar
January 28, 2018

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Perspective

James 1:9-12

3 This is Your Identity

Background & Introduction:

1 What's Your Boast?

"But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; and the rich man glory in his humiliation..." James 1:9

2 Where's Your Hope?

Application:



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Week of January 28, 2018

Go Deep Study Guide

Perspective

James 1:9-12

Getting Started

What did you find most helpful from this week's sermon? Was anything confusing? Is there anything that needs clarification? Discuss as a group.

If you haven't heard the sermon yet, you can access it at: www.cbcventura.org

Going Deeper

Re-read James 1:1-12

How do you think our passage relates to the verses that precede it? That follow it?

How would you describe the "*brother/sister of humble circumstances*" Scripturally? Is God/James condemning riches or rich people? Explain

What's your *boast*? If you're honest, what are some of the things that you glory in? Discuss the difference between enjoying things, having pride in things, and allowing those things to define you & shape your identity? How do we find balance?

Read about where James draws his inspiration for our passage: **Isaiah 40:6-8 & Psalm 103:15-16.**

What is James overall message to poor people and rich people alike? How can both classes of people either "*get this right*" or fail in following his wisdom? Explain

How would you describe a *spiritual identity*? How is this shaped? How is it evaluated/measured in terms of effectiveness/success?

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Read and discuss **1 Timothy 6:17** and **James 2:5**. What is God teaching us? What are some practical application points?

Where's your *hope*? What things or people do you place your hope in - for the future? For security? For relationships? For decisions? How is this good or bad? List some verses that teach us a healthy foundation for Christian hope.

What frustrates you the most about the fading nature of this life? Can you relate to things *fading, tarnishing, becoming dusty, withering, wrinkling, corroding, wearing out, breaking...*? Share with your group.

Read and discuss **Matthew 6:19-20, 1 Peter 1:3-4 & Jeremiah 9:23-24**. What practical principles do you see? What are some good things to remember when we're tempted to become materialistic?

Talk about how our *boast* & our *hope* ends-up shaping our *identity*, for good or for bad. Have you witnessed examples of this? Perhaps you've lived this! Share

Read & discuss what the following verses have to say about a healthy/proper spiritual focus: **1 John 3:2-3, 1 Peter 1:13 & Hebrews 3:6.**

Application

Take your favorite implication/application from the sermon this week and personalize it. What are some specific ways that you can make this truth real in your life this week? Is there someone who can hold you accountable and encourage you in this?

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His Word and what you've learned.

What are some of the prayer needs of your group, your family, your friends?