

## *James 1.12—The Unfading Crown of Life*

### **The Blessed Trial, v. 12a**

- I. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount has influenced James (Matt. 5.13-12).
  - A. Consider also Psalm 1.1-2 (Ps. 1.1; 32.2; 34.8; 40.4; 94.12; 112.1; 127.5).
    - 1. "Blessed" speaks of a spiritual state from a right standing with God.
      - a) The one who is blessed is the one who remains steadfast; endures; perseveres under trial.
        - (1) Restating verses 2-4, steadfastness is the fruit of true faith in the one true God in Christ Jesus. So, let us not consider our blessed state without considering the various trials that are being used to conform us into the image of Christ (Rom. 8.29-39).
        - (2) 1 Pet. 3.14; 4.12-19
        - (3) Matt. 10.22
          - (a) There is a reward for Christians who remain steadfast.

### **The Reward of Testing, v. 12b**

- I. The Christian life is all of grace; unmerited favor. But there are rewards for those who follow Christ (Matt. 5.3-12).
  - A. James 1.12 teaches the perseverance of the saints (WCF 17) and that Christians will receive a reward for their steadfast faith. This is not saying that we earn salvation (Phil. 2.13).
  - B. James 5.11 says that the Lord is compassionate and merciful to those who are steadfast in their faith.
  - C. Steadfastness does not mean perfection in good works (WCF 16.4-6), but the fruit of steadfastness is striving for perfection.
    - 1. This would mark the completion of God's sanctifying work in the Christian.
      - a) If you have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it will be tested up until the end of your life.
        - (1) Matt. 10.13-25
          - (a) This is a call for us to be mindful of where we are in our trials.
  - D. The reward is the crown of life or eternal life (Rev. 2.10; 3.11).
    - 1. 1 Pet. 5.4
    - 2. 1 Cor. 9.24-27
      - a) The fruit of our faith is not inactivity (Phil. 2.12) but killing sin and fighting in the war of faith (Eph. 6.10-20).

3. 2 Tim. 4.6-8

a) Can we say of ourselves that we are striving for that which is imperishable?

E. God promises to grant this crown of life to those who love him (Rev. 2.10). This promise is an announcement proclaimed before the foundation of the world, “that we should be holy and blameless before him (Eph. 1.4).”

1. Our love for God is rooted in God’s love for us (1 John 4.10).

a) Those who are justified are also sanctified. Our love for God is a response of gratitude for giving us all things (John 14.15; Eph. 1.3; 2 Pet. 1.3).

II. Application.

A. What type of testing are you going through at the moment? Are there particular sins that keep you away from the throne of grace? Are you being persecuted?

1. There is a reward for steadfast faith, and he has promised to strengthen you (Col. 1.9-14) as you are grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

a) 1 Cor. 15.58

B. Is your faith a persevering faith?

1. If not, the solution is the same. Repent and flee to Christ by faith.

C. Have you walked away from the faith?

1. Come back. Hold fast to Christ. There is an unfading crown of life for you with Christ.

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