

Truth for Trials, part 2

James 1:9-12

The road is rugged, and the sun is hot. How can we be but weary? Here is grace for the weariness – grace which lifts us up and invigorates us. Our weariness of heart and limb departs. We need no other refreshment. This is enough. Whatever the way be – rough, gloomy, unpleasant – we press forward, knowing that the same grace that has already carried thousands through will do the same for us.

-Horatius Bonar

I. **Trials & Our Position**

II. Trials & God's Promise

Into the Bible

The Kingdom of God has been described as an “upside-down kingdom” because the value system of God’s kingdom is so unexpectedly the reverse of how the world sees things. One reason is that the value system of the world is based in the temporal and fleeting while kingdom values are rooted in the eternal. There is a definite echo of Christ’s teaching in the Beatitudes in verse 12, “Blessed is the man...”. When you read through them in Matthew 5:2-12 which of the rewards seem temporal for the here and now, and which seem to be eternal in nature?

Application

The biblical theme of the brevity of life is repeated throughout Scripture. Though the thought of our own mortality is usually not comforting to us, how does the reminder that “our life is but grass” challenge us and actually comfort us during times of trial? (Isaiah 40:6-8, 1 John 2:17, Isaiah 51:12, 2 Corinthians 4:18)

The admonition to seek first the Kingdom of God and gather our riches in heaven rather than trust to earthly efforts and earthly riches to sustain us can be difficult to hear when we are struggling to make ends meet in the present. How can we avoid anxiety and keep our perspective correct in this situation? (Matthew 6:25-34)

For Families

This week might be a good chance to talk with your children about the upside-down kingdom approach to living as Christians.