“Consider It All Joy”

Intro: As we entered into our study of James this past Sunday, we came to understand that he was writing to the Jewish Christians who were _____________. Due to persecution, many had been driven from their homeland; and, being Jewish and Christian their suffering was often _____________.

A. The last word of the first verse is “greetings!” It means “___________” or “Be glad!”

1. James was looking to the ____________ side of their earthly situation.
   a. Let us learn, that God being the Sovereign, He is ____________ godly things in us, even in our sufferings.

   James 1:1-4

I. ____________ it all ________!

   A. In both the Old and New Testaments, the word “joy” is employed in a particular way conveying a spiritual sense of ____________ which is outwardly expressed.

      1. In the O.T. the word “joy” often refers to an ____________ that comes as a result of the individual’s ____________ with God and is expressed in various forms.

      2. In the N.T. we find “joy” to be of even more significance for it is more than an emotion and its expression, but a ____________ of the Christian’s life.

         a. The believer’s joy is a godly characteristic for it is a ________ born of the ____________, rather than an emotion that comes and goes.

   B. This is in the imperative - it is a ____________.

      1. Such a joy is not a matter of emotions, but a matter of choice, of ____________ ________!

   C. James commands that we consider it _____ joy. Not some, not part, but _______ of life, including the trials.

II. “Consider it all joy, ______ ________, ...”

   A. Speaking of the Jewish ________, he is a brother. And speaking of the ________, he is a brother. He is fully aware of the struggle, and of the implications of what he says. If we will consider what James suffered we will realize that he speaks from such ________________ that few will ever know.
III. “Consider it all joy ... when you encounter various ____________, ...”

A. Beloved church, it is not a matter of if the trials will come, but they come for they will come! (ch. 1 Peter 4:12-13 & John 15:18-20)

IV. “... the ____________ of your faith produces ____________.”

A. “Testing” here in James 1:3 is used in the sense of trying, that is ____________ or strengthening one’s faith.

1. It is putting faith to the test not to find if it will withstand, but to build it, strengthen it, temper it so that it will ____________! ... The testing is for our ____________!

B. The testing of our faith is going to make us capable of finishing the race by producing spiritual ____________ in us! That is, by being strengthened in our faith in Christ will be found faithful unto the end. And he that endureth until the end shall be ____________!

V. We ____________ that the testing of our faith produces spiritual endurance so that we might be found faithful unto the coming of our Lord.

A. Now that we know what good God is working in us by allowing our faith to be tempered we can ____________ ____________ for we know the mind of God in the matter. Therefore, we view the trial which tests our faith not as something negative, but as that which is meant by God to bring about that which is _____ : endurance.

B. When the next trial comes, ____________ yourself to think rightly by saying this: “God is using this trial to produce endurance in me that I might receive my heavenly ____________. This is the occasion for my inner man to be filled with joy, knowing that through this God is accomplishing His in me.”

See what good thing the Lord has given us today!?

We never need to wonder what God is doing in us when we face trials.

By the authority of His Word we know that He is producing endurance in us so that we will stand and be with the ____________ ____________!

James writes saying, “Greetings!” Indeed, we have cause to rejoice!

Like an expectant mother in view of our future hope, may we find joy in the midst of pain and suffering until our ____________ is ____________!