

## For Our Information

Betty Ragsdale is feeling better.

John Ross Simpson is doing much better following a week of rest.

Vickie McNees is dealing with a lot of pain with little relief.

JoBeth Henderson is visiting with her Mom this week. Dan Henderson leaves Monday for Alabama to help his parents during Jerry Henderson's surgery this week. They both hope to be home by sometime Friday.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

**Church of Christ**  
1512 Tanner Street  
Malvern, AR 72104  
(501) 332-8806

[preacher@tannerst.com](mailto:preacher@tannerst.com)

Find us online

[tannerst.com](http://tannerst.com)  
FB @TannerStCoC

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

the bank. It would be against all that he stands for in his position! So it is with God. He tests, but He does not tempt man with evil, and cannot Himself be so tempted.

Jesus was tested by men and by Satan, but as with His Heavenly Father, He had no desire for evil. (**John 14:30**). Thus, He was not tempted in the sense described in **James 1:13-14**.

(Our lives are filled with testing. Some is to determine our knowledge. Other is to find our weakness. We must constantly strengthen our weaknesses so that we will not break when tested. If we fail a test we must take action quickly to set things right and then get busy with some spiritual rehab to strengthen that area of our life. Then if we are tested in a similar manner again we will withstand and hold fast. Our soul depends on it. Study Carefully! Study With Diligence! Then Stand Fast In Your Faith! DLH)

# Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 8 Week 7

February 2019

## A Word Study, "Tempt"

Steve D. Walker

Can God be tempted? James wrote that "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone." (**James 1:13**, NKJV). This statement has led some to conclude that, since the Bible tells us (**Matthew 4**; **Hebrews 4:15**) that Jesus was tempted while on earth, His spirit did not then possess or did not have use of the characteristics of God. Others deduce that He had both a divine spirit and a human spirit, and only the latter



*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;*

**1Peter 4:12**



## Meet With Us

### Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

### Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

[TannerSt.com](http://TannerSt.com)

was involved in His temptations. I submit that these conclusions are unwarranted, being based upon a faulty understanding of the word "tempt."

The English dictionary (Webster's 9th) gives the primary meaning of "to tempt" as, "to entice to do wrong by promise of pleasure or gain," and that is how we usually understand the word when used in modern speech. However, a second definition, "to make trial of: test," is stated to be obsolete, although this is closer in meaning to the word's origins.

The Bible states many times that not only has God tempted men, but He has been tempted by men: "*God tempted Abraham...*" (**Genesis 22:1**); "*...by temptations...which the Lord your God did for you in Egypt...*" (**Deuteronomy 4:34**); "*Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God...*" (**Deuteronomy 6:16**); "*Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God...*" (**Psalms 78:56**). In fact, all appearances (17) of the words "tempt" or "temptation" in the King James Version of the Old Testament are references either to God tempting man or to man tempting God!

Peter asks of Jewish believers in **Acts 15:10**, "*Now therefore why tempt ye [NKJV: 'Why do you test...'] God, to put a yoke on the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*" The Greek word here translated "tempt" is "peiradzo." It means "to try, make trial of, test." (Thayer, p. 498). Peter exhorted that the Jews not test God by calling in question His wisdom and His will regarding acceptance of the Gentiles. Yes, it is possible for men to tempt (test) God, but it is foolish and sinful for them to do so.

## Store In My Heart

### Judges 2:18-19

When the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them. But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways.

This is a good summary of the book of Judges. Israel did not remove the wicked people of the land and they were a constant influence for evil. Time after time God helped but they refused to follow.

In what sense can God not be tempted, as stated by James? He wrote that "*God cannot be tempted with evil,*" that is, there is no evil desire within Him to which one might appeal. James (**1:14**) affirms such desires to be the source of our own temptations, and the fact that God cannot thus be tempted implies that He would not try to allure us into evil, although He does test or try the righteous, for their good. (**Psalms 11:5; Psalm 139:23; Zechariah 13:9**).

Consider this illustration: An honest, diligent bank president finds that money is being taken from the vault by someone among three of his workers, he knows not which. He sets up a situation wherein the unguarded vault is left open with an employee working alone near it, but under surveillance. The first employee sees the open vault, but having no interest in taking what is not rightfully his, he gives no thought to entering. The second worker, upon seeing the open door, looks into the vault and contemplates taking some of the cash, but turns away, fearing the consequences. The third sees the opportunity, enters, steals, and is nabbed as the culprit. All three were tested, but the first man was not "*tempted with evil,*" having no covetous desire within him. The other two were tempted by their own desires, but one did not yield.

What if the bank president were to change the test, asking the first employee to try to talk the second into stealing? That would be called entrapment. As an honest man, this bank president would be above such tempting of his staff. Neither could a bank employee tempt the boss to steal from