James and Sin
James 4:7-10

Introduction:
A. James expresses his concern for sinners.
   1. Need cleansing. (vs. 8)
      a. Because sin is dirty. (cf. 2 Cor 7:1; Peter 2:20)
      b. To make a glorious church. (Eph. 5:25-27)
   2. Need conversion (KJV) or turning (NKJV). (ch. 5:19,20)
B. James discusses three important aspects of every person's sin.
   1. Its Beginning.
   2. Its Operation.
   3. Its End.

Discussion:

A. We cannot blame God.
   1. God only gives good gifts. (v. 17)
   2. God gave his word to save us, not temptations to lure us. (v.18)
B. We cannot pass the buck anyone.
   1. Not to wife like Adam. (Gen. 3:12)
   2. Not to parents like Israelites and Calvinists. (Ezek. 18:20, 21)
   3. Not even to Satan like Eve. (Gen. 3:13; cf. 2 Thess. 2:9-10).
C. We cannot even blame it on strong temptation.
   1. Temptation is powerless unless we give in to it. (ch. 1:14).
   2. Temptation cannot overpower us against our will (cf. 1 Cor. 10:12).

III. Sin Operates In Many Ways.
A. By growing on us. (ch. 1:15).
B. By what we say and do.
   1. Like showing partiality. (ch. 2:8,9).
   2. Like offending in one point of law. (ch. 2:8-11).
   3. Like speaking evil of brethren. (ch. 4:11).
   4. Like boasting of tomorrow. (ch. 4:13-16).
C. By what we do not say and do. (ch. 4:17).
   1. Not enough to believe right, must do right. (Jas. 1:25:2:14-26)
   2. Not enough to oppose evil, must do good. (ch. 2:14-16).
   3. Not enough to have no fellowship with darkness, must actively reprove it. (cf. Eph. 5:11).

IV. Sin Ends in Death. (1:15; 5:20).
A. Dead even while living. (Eph. 2:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:6).
B. Dead for all eternity, yet conscious. (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 21)

Conclusion:
A. Sin does not have to bring forth death. (5:19,20).
B. Sin can be washed away. (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9,10).
   2. Penitent Christians are washed at confession & prayer. (1 John 5:7-9).
      a. Purpose of confession is not to reveal sin, but acknowledge it.
      b. Purpose of confessing is because others know it. (Jas. 5:16).