

Living Word

Date: February 10, 2008

Topic: James 4 - Worldliness and Following God's Will

Announcements

Prayer

Teaching

Small Groups

Announcements -

Youth Website - www.dundeeyouth.org

High School

Delta Pi Chi - Tonight at 7, we're starting our series on World Religions, some come check out what other people believe

Junior High

Next Step - This Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00.

Body Builders Retreat - The retreat of a lifetime. Come learn about Spiritual Gifts, play sweet games, sled, toboggan, and tons of other fun things. **Registration is due today!!!**

Living Word

Every Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00

Prayer - Will someone open us up in prayer?

Memory Verse - James 2:17 (NIV)

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (NIV)

Review of Last Week

Teaching

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Our passions are at war within us. Let's turn to Romans chapter 7 really quick and read from verse 14. As we can see here, we are sinful by nature, but God has made us new. There's this dichotomy between the imputed holiness of Jesus' blood, and our own sinfulness. Now we have to know that we're never going to be perfect while we're here on earth; but we can become more holy. We can grow in our likeness of Jesus, which we often call sanctification.

2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

This reflects what James says in chapter 1 verses 5 through 8. But James is adding on here saying, "You not only don't believe that what you ask for is going to be given to you, you are only asking for things that are going to benefit you for your own selfish desires." I think you can make the inference that when we know that we are asking for something with our own selfish desires in mind, we aren't going to have true faith that God is going to give it to us.

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Huge verse ... crazy implications. I bet a lot of us thought the same thing when we first read this verse. I thought, "But aren't we supposed to love the world, serve others, help the needy, etc..." James is making a pretty big statement by saying we are supposed to hate this world. A friend of the world is *an enemy of God*. What does that mean? It means this, yes we are to befriend others and tell them about Jesus ... but it must be for God's glory. We are supposed to be happy in this place that we are in ... but recognize that without God it is a horrible, desolate darkness.

5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

This being from Proverbs 3. Why don't we turn there really quick.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Submit yourselves to God. That's a huge boo yah if I've ever heard one. Do you guys know what submission is? How would you define submission?

the action or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person

Yielding to the will of a superior. That means that we are always trying to seek what God wants us to do. That we aren't going through life asking God for help only when we think we need him; rather going through life knowing that we need him always and for everything. How do we *resist the devil*? We learned about it in chapter 1 (verse 10), and also in Isaiah 40. *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.* Seek and you will find. How do we draw near to God? We pray ... we worship ... we read Scripture. It says *clean your hands* and *purify your hearts*. That means to do God-honoring deeds and think God-honoring thoughts.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

We need to take our sin very seriously, like we talked about last week. That's what verse 9 is talking about, the seriousness of our sin, and our need for true repentance. If we check out Romans 6:23, we know how serious sin is. But humbling ourselves, putting our lives at His feet, and saying, "Lord ... thy will be done," will bring us exaltation.

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Don't talk against your brothers. Now it says in verse 11 don't judge your brother, but that is in the context of speaking evil against someone, or slandering them. Speaking evil is the opposite of speaking truth. Truth is always acceptable to speak to brothers in the faith. Therefore telling someone how you feel about them, if it is in love, and for the mutual building of your relationship and glorification of God, then it is good. You aren't the judge, Jesus is the judge. Judgment is always for the building of others, not for punitive reasons.

12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Let's turn to Revelation chapter 20 for a moment and read from verse 11. Who is the final judge, the judge of who's going to Heaven or Hell? Who is able to save and destroy. Jesus! Jesus is the one. He's the final Judge, the Judge for all.

13 Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

This is just another echo of trusting and submitting to the will of God. Don't plan your life away, because God has amazing ways of throwing you off *your track* to make you follow *his track*.

Summary

Accompanying Texts

Romans 7:14-19
Proverbs 3:33-35
Romans 6:23
Revelation 20:11-15