

## JAMES CHAPTER - 4 | BIBLE STUDY NOTES | 03/06/24

### SUBMIT YOURSELVES TO GOD

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you?

- Don't they come from **your desires** that battle within you?
  - **You desire** but do not have, **so you kill**.
  - **You covet** but you cannot get what you want, so **you quarrel and fight**.
    - You do not have because you do not ask God.
  - When you ask, **you do not receive**, because **you ask with wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on **your pleasures**.

Man's Pleasure or \_\_\_\_\_?

James is setting before his people a basic question. Is their aim in life is to \_\_\_\_\_ or to gratify their \_\_\_\_\_ for the pleasures of this world?

**THE WARNING** | If pleasure is the policy of life, then strife, hatred and division can possibly follow.

### The Consequences of the Pleasure-dominated Life

- It sets men at each other's throats. Desires is a warring power.
- The craving for pleasure drives men to shameful deeds.
- The craving for pleasure in the end shuts the door of prayer.

<sup>4</sup>You adulterous people,

- What does James mean by when he says "you adulterous people"? (*Isa 54:5, Jer 3:20*)
- don't you know that friendship with the world means **enmity against God**?
  - Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an **enemy of God**. - (*1 John 2:15-17, 2 Cor 6:14, Mathew 6:24, Isaiah 54:5*)
- how do we become friends with the world?
- <sup>5</sup>Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he **jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us**?
  - What is James talking about here?
    - <sup>6</sup>But he gives us **more grace**. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the **proud** but shows favor to the **humble**.”

- Who are the proud? Who are the humble?

<sup>7</sup>**Submit** yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.

- How do we resist the devil? <sup>8</sup>**Come near** to God and he will come near to you.

STEPS –

- Wash your hands, you sinners,
- and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- <sup>9</sup>Grieve, mourn and wail. (Psalm 51:17)
- Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.
- <sup>10</sup>**Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

<sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, **do not slander one another**. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

**Slander** - make false and damaging statements about (someone).

- What law is James referring to hear? (Mt 22:39, Ro 13:10)

<sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you - who are you to judge your neighbor?

### **Boasting About Tomorrow – Mistaken Confidence | Pride / Arrogance**

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (Pro 27:1, Pro 16:9, Jer 10:23)

- <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, “**If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.**” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.
  - <sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, **knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.**

Some questions to ask God...

- What do you want me to do Lord?
- What is your will in this situation?
- What is your plans Lord in this area of my life?