

The Book of James

Faith in Action – Lesson #5

The Book of James is a practical communication from James to especially Jewish Christians. Throughout his letter, James uses many references to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Chapter 4 covers two basic subjects: 1) living in the world, but not of the world and, 2) living your life with God or without God.

Review:

1. What does the Bible mean when it talks about the "world"? (1 John 2:15-17; John 15:18-19; John 17:13-19; Romans 12:2) Briefly describe what it means to live "in the world, but not of the world."

2. "Quarrels and fights..." (vs. 1) are from the battle that rages within us. In our "covid-world" we are seeing a lot of fights. What is the battle that rages within us? What does God desire that we pray for?

3. James uses the word "adulterous" in verse 4. How have we committed adultery (idolatry) against God? Is it alright for Him to be "jealous"? What is the definition of "envies intensely" in verse 5?

4. James emphasizes Christian humility in verses 6 and 10. How does the humble person become more open to the grace that God gives? Why is it so important to be humble?

5. Verses 7-10 give a series of imperatives. Comment on each of them:

“Submit...to God” –

“Resist the devil...and he will flee from you” –

“Come near to God and He will come near to you” –

“Cleanse hands you sinners...purify your hearts you double-minded” –

“Grieve, mourn, wail” –

“Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom” –

6. James returns to the sinful habit of judging. What are the alternatives to judging? (Luke 17:4; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; Matthew 18:15-17)

7. What advice does James give in regards to our jobs/business/work in verses 13-17? How can we, more and more, add God into our lives? (Matthew 24:45-46; Matthew 25:14-30)

For next week read James Chapter 5.