

Topic: James Chapter 4

Setting: This part of the Epistle is focused on quarrels & conflicts among the believers

Key Verse: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (v.7)

Thought: Because of the strong language used in these verses, there must have been serious problems among the Jewish members of some churches located in Gentile communities.

| Verse | Notes & Questions | Comments & Answers |
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| v.1-3 | James, while pointing out serious problems in the church, wanted his Jewish brethren to focus on the "source" or "cause" of their quarrels & conflicts. i. Why might that be a more effective approach than just condemning their behaviour? ii. What was James's conclusion about the source of their problems? | |
| v.4-5 | Being a "friend" of the world will automatically make one an "enemy" of God. This action will make one unfaithful to God and breaks our relationship to Him. The seal of our relationship is God's gift of the Holy Spirit which will be taken away if we desire the world more than God. How do we know if we are becoming too friendly with the world so as to break our relationship with God? (see 1 Cor. 6:18) | |
| v.6-7 | i. Why is God opposed to the proud? ii. Why does God give grace to the humble? iii. How do Christians resist the devil? | |
| v.8-10 | How do we draw near to God? | |
| v.13-16 | i. How does the fact that a life is just a "vapour" change how you plan your life? ii. Why does the phrase "if the Lord wills" help Christians plan their life? | |
| v.17 | Give some examples of "not doing the right thing when we know that it is right". | |