



INTRODUCTION

James is once again confronting his audience. In this section he is concerned with their lack of spiritual planning. It was not that they had failed to plan, but that in their planning they had failed. They had mapped out their future but left out the key to not only planning, but life itself – God! So James reminds these “forgetful hearers” that life apart from God is meaningless.

PRIDE LIVES LIFE OF GOD

There are certain attitudes and actions that place us in the enemy camp against God. James reveals some characteristics of worldliness that prove helpful in discerning if we are the “friend of the world”.

A. Pride is self-_____ (4:11-12)

Application: When we become harshly critical of others, maximizing their faults to maximize our virtues, we are evidencing pride. When we self-appoint ourselves as the judge of other’s motives and actions, we are attempting to take on a role that belongs to God alone. The proud looks for faults in others to condemn, the spiritual may observe faults but seek to restore.

B. Pride is self-_____ (4:13)

Application: In pride the self-sufficient live life as practical atheists. They may not deny God’s existence in word, but in deed they live like He does not exist. Those to whom James is writing were self-assertive, self-confident, and self-centered in their purposeful ignoring of God. Many people say that they believe in God, but, in reality, they are practical atheists. That is, in the way they make decisions and plan for the future, they live as if God does not exist.

C. Pride is self-_____ (4:16)

Application: We must remember that God alone gives us life, sustains our life, and allows us to accomplish anything in life. There is no place for self-glory when all the glory belongs to God alone.

HUMILITY LIVES LIFE ON GOD

Humility is not a term that the world aspires to or readily accepts. Yet, it is one that God announces as the key to receiving His grace (4:6). Remember a humble person is one who understands that he must always rely on God.

A. Humility _____ God’s sovereignty (4:12)

Application: A humble person understands that ultimately it is God who has given man the true standards and who holds him accountable. It is He alone who not only made the law but also has the authority to carry out all final judgment. The humble person affirms God as the rightful Lawgiver and Judge.

B. Humility _____ man’s frailty (4:14)

Application: We count and celebrate our years on earth by birthdays, but God tells us to number our days (Ps. 90:12). Someone has well said, “Life is short no matter how long you live”. The man who makes his earthly plans without sensitivity to the nature of life itself is clearly foolish and spiritually ignorant.

C. Humility _____ God’s will (4:15)

Application: A believer must recognize his dependence on God for everything. Our life itself is a gift from God, and the ability to accomplish anything in this life comes from God. We must put God’s desires at the center of our planning.

D. Humility _____ God’s Word (4:17)

Application: James would have liked the Nike slogan, “Just do it!” Are you doing the things you know to be right? What sin of omission is in your life? Sins of omission get started by stopping, and they can be stopped by starting. You know what is right, do it!

CONCLUSION

What type of attitude does your life demonstrate? Pride tries to live life independent of God. It is self-appointing, self-sufficient, and self-conceited. It believes itself to be above the law and judging in the place of God as it criticizes others. It considers itself to be self-made and self-sustaining as it makes future plans without any consideration of God’s will. It is arrogant as it boasts in its own accomplishments refusing to give the glory to God. In contrast, a humble person lives life in dependence on God. They affirm God as sovereign. They acknowledge man’s frailty along with the brevity and uncertainty of life. They accept God’s will by submitting themselves and their plans to God. They apply God’s Word to their life. They know what is right and do it. To the humble God gives grace. Real faith depends on God.



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