

What Makes You Proud?

When we understand the need to take off old man beliefs and behaviors so that we can put on new man beliefs and behaviors in Christ, it highlights our worldliness

James, speaking to Jewish Believers in poverty and under great persecution, has been making practical applications about where they have been putting their hearts. He is on the attack against worldly thinking & motives that he sees in the lives of these Believers. (Jam.1:22-27) [hear/do word; control tongue; help/need]

Heavenly wisdom compared to earthly wisdom; conflicts coming from selfish motives; friendship with the world is animosity towards God; He opposes the arrogant (worldly) gives grace to the humble; therefore submit to God, come near to God, purify your hearts and stop judging.

(Jam.4: 13-17) James confronts worldly Believers who are planning to become rich and are using wealth as security and are boasting about it! He says they're doing evil because they know what God wants from their lives and they're not doing it.

Vs 13 – Plan for profit – today / tomorrow travel for business / profit

- Normal business plan – plan that has not considered the Lord
- This bel is focused on worldly gain & not on spiritual gain

Vs 14 – You don't know about tomorrow – you are a puff of smoke, here and gone!

- Stop assuming that you have more time than today – life can end any moment
- Vapor (atmis) [mist, fog, puff of smoke] floats away in a moment

Vs 15 – Instead you should say – If the Lord wills – we will live and do

- James gives us some advice: If (3cc – maybe He will, maybe He won't) God wills - - -
- God's Will determines where you will go and what you will do

Vs 16 – But now you are boasting about your worldly success (poneros) [evil]

- Spiritual adultery, friendship with the world,
- Arrogance opposed by God,
- Double minded,
- Judging a fellow Brother in Christ based on worldly standards – because you have more 'things'!

Vs 17 – Knowing to do good (God's Will), but refusing to do it - is sin

- The good – heavenly wisdom, humble yourselves, submit to God, come near to God, purify your hearts, give your today's to the Lord and leave your tomorrows in His hand
- You already know how to live for the Lord but you've decided to reject Him – commit sin.

1. God is the Creator of free enterprise and profit.

- All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. (Prov 14:23)
- Richest man in the East – used His wealth to serve the Lord (Job 1:3)
 - James is not condemning business and sensible business plans
 - James condemns those using their wealth as the basis of security & happiness
- Self-indulgent use of wealth rather than using it to serve the Lord (Ch.5:1-6)

2. James gives us good news – you might die today.

- You don't know about tomorrow – only God knows about tomorrow
- Talk about profit – the ultimate profit (2Cor 5:8) absent from the body – present with the Lord
- Ultimate business plan – (Lk 12:16-21) Rich toward God
- Puff of smoke – **atmis** – even a full life goes quickly – can't stay here

3. Every day the Lord gives us here belongs to Him – give it to Him

- Purpose (**lego**) wisdom would practice this purpose
- 3CC – **ean** + subjunctive **thelo** – maybe, maybe not – whatever God decides
- Divine decrees – God has determined all your days (Ecc 3:2) time to die
- Walk carefully, wise not unwise, making wise use of time, not foolish but understanding God's will, not self indulgent but filled GHS (Eph 5:15-18)

4. In what or whom do you feel pride, rejoice and boast?

- **Kauchomai** – boast, rejoice, be glad, be proud of – basis of happiness
- Spiritual boasting (Rom 5:2-3) rejoice in hope of God's glory in adversities; (Rom 5:11) salvation (God); (1Cor 1:31) boast in the Lord
- Sin / Evil boasting (1Cor 4:6-7) in man and man's accomplishments; (2Cor 11:18) boasting after the flesh; (Jam 4:16) boast arrogant business victories
- If your pride / boast / rejoicing is in your humanity – evil – motivated by devil
- James writes hard words - those who have means and use them for self

5. Sin redefined – not just sinful actions – failure to do the good.

- The “good” had been discussed through the whole book – humility, hearing & doing the word; using means to help those without means; controlling tongue; faithfulness in suffering;
- James says that well informed but distracted, wrongly motivated Believers are involved in sinful lifestyles, self indulgent & refusing to do the good
- James was there in (Acts 2:42-47): fellowshiping together, sharing as needed, totally focused on the Lord in word and deed.

6. This passage calls for each of us to examine our motives & our lives

- Vs 13 listen, those of you who say – those who are focused on worldly things
- Vs 14 those who assume they have tomorrow – you don't know
- Vs 15 those who have forgotten that the Lord's will is the issue
- Vs 16 those who rejoice in self indulgent worldly gain

- 5:7-12 patiently endure adversity
- 5:13- 18 prayer of faith
- 5:19-20 help one another to turn from sinful lifestyles