

JAMES 4

James 4.1-12: Wars in the World

1. War with Each Other (4.1a, 11-12).
 - a. Class wars (2.1-9): Rich and poor.
 - b. Employment wars: (5.1-6): owners and labors.
 - c. Church fights (1.19-20; 3.13-18).
 - d. Personal (4.11-12).
2. War with Ourselves (4.1b – 3): SELF
3. War with God (4.4-10): Enemies we are not to fraternize with:
 - a. World (4.4): Society and culture.
 - b. Flesh (4.1, 5) Old, sinful nature.
 - c. Devil (4.6-7): He wants us to depend on self and not God.
4. Peace not War.
 - a. Submit to God (4.7).
 - b. Draw near to God (4. 8).
 - c. Humble yourself before God (4. 9-10).

James 4.13-17: Pray and Plan

- a. Planning Scriptures
 - a. Matthew 6.34: “Do not be anxious about tomorrow”.
 - b. Proverbs 16.9: “The heart of the man plans his way but the Lord establishes his steps”.
- b. Plan Ahead
 - a. Three attitudes toward the Will of God
 - i. Ignoring God’s Will (4.13-14, 16) Four arguments that reveals the foolishness of ignoring:
 1. Complexity of life (4. 13) Apart from the will of God, life is a mystery
 2. Uncertainty of life (4.14a) See Luke 12.16 about the rich, foolish farmer.
 3. Brevity of life (4.14b) See Job. We don’t want to “spend our lives”, “waste our lives, but “invest our lives” in those things eternal.
 4. Frailty of man (4. 16) “you boast and brag”.
 - ii. Disobeying God’s Will (4.17) You know God’s will but disobey. Why?
 1. Pride.
 2. Ignorance of the nature of God’s will – thinking you can accept or reject it.

iii. Obeying God's Will (4.15) "If the Lord will" is not a statement but the constant attitude of the heart.

b. God's Will

1. Know His Will (Acts 22.14) We need to be "filled with the knowledge of His will and all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col 1.9).
2. Understand His will (Eph 5.17).
3. Prove His Will (Rom 12.2) Prove is to prove by experience (Greek translation).

c. Benefits of Doing His Will.

1. Deeper fellowship with Jesus Christ (Mk 3.35).
2. Knowing God's truth (Jn 7.17).
3. Seeing your prayers answered (1 Jn 5.14-15).
4. Eternal quality to life (1 Jn 2.15-17).
5. Expectation of reward upon Christ's return (Matt 25.34).

Adapted from Be Mature – James, Warren Wiersbe