

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Marching Orders Against Worldliness
James 4:1-10

Last time...a study in the contrast of the two kinds of wisdom on earth

1. Wisdom of man and the world
2. Wisdom of God

From above (heaven) or from beneath (earth)

Meek or haughty

Peaceful or contentious

James 3:13-18

This time...a continuation of that clash of wisdoms/worldviews and our marching orders for that clash

A worldview:

- A philosophy
- How one views the world
- How one makes sense of the world

The clash of worldviews in which we play a part in these troublesome times:

The wisdom of God – a Biblical worldview

- The Center and Source: The eternal Creator God
- comes from eternity, a revelation of our Creator in His very words to mankind
- knowledge/understanding of God, ourselves, and the world thru the lens of Scripture
- the absolute, unchanging Truth and Final Authority
- the worldview of believers in Jesus Christ, the regenerated children of the Living God...our worldview

The wisdom of man and the world – secular humanism

- the center and source: man...who dies
- a way of thinking and “understanding” the world without God
- comes from knowledge attained by human reasoning and the 5 senses
- truth is relative and changes over time as “knowledge” increases
- the worldview of the unregenerate, the worldly

Fruit of the two wisdoms:

The wisdom of God

- righteousness
- peace

The wisdom of man and the world

- envying
- strife
- confusion
- every evil work

Since Gen 3, these two diametrically opposed wisdoms/worldviews have clashed

- Good vs evil
- Light vs darkness
- Life vs death
- The King of glory vs the prince of this defiled and cursed world

The “spoils” of this clash – the souls of men

The Kok and Lol to save the souls of men

The prince of this world to destroy the souls of men

In James 4, we will consider the Church’s marching orders from our King in the face of worldliness

v1 wars and fightings...lusts:

With Ch 3:13-18 in mind, a question:

Where do wars and fightings/strife/controversy come from?

Whether it is strife

- between nations
- between individuals or groups of people
- between unbelievers or believers
- between believers (strife/controversy in the Church)
- within our own hearts

A: the lusts of the flesh

- love of Self
- carnal pleasures

stirred and enflamed by the prince of the world,

NOT by the Creator God (Ch 1:13-17)

resulting in division unto destruction,

NOT division unto multiplication

v2-3 Ye lust...kill...fight and war...ask:

Who is “ye”?

Same as “you” in v1

- nations
- individuals
- mankind
- even believers/Jesus-kind with an inner conflict
(Rom 7:14-18-25, Gal 5:16-17, James 1:8
and with SoM/Spirit of Law in mind)

The “human condition” (heart) from which all men need deliverance:

- Lust/covet...but never have enough, are never satisfied by the things of the world
- Kill, desire to have, and cannot obtain...driven by envy and jealousy and covetousness, destroy men made created in the image of God, but needlessly because cannot get what truly satisfies – righteousness and peace
- Fight/strive/quarrel and war, and have not...self-sufficient, self-driven, pridefully never asking for help in getting true gain
- Ask and receive not...because of ill-motive – to fuel the self-serving lusts of the flesh that cannot ever be satisfied

The unavoidable conclusion, learned by experience:

- the ways of the world fail, fall short
- the lusts of the flesh can never be satisfied

The issue is “when” that conclusion is learned – before or after one’s last breath

And how do we know these things about the “human condition” and the conclusion of the matter?

Only by the wisdom of God, the Biblical worldview revealed by God

v4 adulterers and adulteresses...friend of the world is the enemy of God:

Again, who is “ye”?

Again, same as “you” in v1

- nations
- individuals
- mankind
- even believers/Jesus-kind given over to the flesh

adulterers and adulteresses:

- apostates...spiritually unfaithful to the revelation of God
- one foot in the kingdom of God, one foot in the world
- double-minded...playing both sides of the conflict, both the Biblical worldview and the secular humanism worldview

know ye not that friendship of the world (worldliness) = hostility with God

- worldliness: envying, strife, and lust resulting in confusion and every evil work
- the world is not our friend, is not to be pursued with gusto!
 - does not have our best interest at heart
 - has our destruction in mind

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 5:19-20

Know this (unchanging truth): friend of world = enemy of God

A friend of the world is a friend of the prince of this world (Satan) striving to overthrow the King of the universe

All of us for a period of time... Eph 2:1-3

Satan's wisdom is the wisdom of man and the world, diametrically opposed to the wisdom of God

His worldview is diametrically opposed to the Biblical worldview revealed by God

Satan controls the systems of the world

- governments...spiritual wickedness in high places, the "swamps" in every nation
- the media...spokespersons for the spiritual wickedness in high places
- education...corrupting the minds of entire generations with lies
 - "science"...theory of evolution as fact to remove God from the minds of children
 - "philosophy"...secular humanism
 - morals...truth is relative so "whatever floats your boat", devoid of any moral compass

The Holy Spirit is telling us that man (unbeliever or believer) cannot have both

- Light and darkness
- Life and death
- Love and hate
- "dual citizenship" in the kingdom of Light (KoG) and the kingdom of darkness (the world)

There is no fence to straddle in order to have it both ways

The fence is a deception and a delusion by the destroyer

2 Cor 6:14-18

1 Peter 1:13-16

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

v5-6 spirit...gives more grace...resists:

All this truth has been revealed to mankind by God in His written Word,

His very words

And God does not talk just to hear Himself talk, as mankind so often does!

He spoke out of a great love for mankind, created in His image

And He is jealous for us, unwilling to share us with Satan!

Ex 34:14

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God

2 Cor 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ

And in His loving jealousy (Rom 5:8), God gives grace to wandering sheep, a grace greater than man's sin (Rom 5:20)

And He has told mankind that He, the Almighty

- resists (stands against) the proud...pride is the exaltation of Self over God (is Satan-ic)
- gives grace (a gift, is not earned or purchased) to the humble

Prov 8:13

The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Prov 11:2

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly *is* wisdom.

Prov 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

Prov 16:18

Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Is 57:15	For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name <i>is</i> Holy; I dwell in the high and holy <i>place</i> , with him also <i>that is</i> of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
Micah 7:18-19	Who <i>is</i> a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth <i>in</i> mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.
Ps 51:17	The sacrifices of God <i>are</i> a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise
Ps 32:1-2	Blessed <i>is he</i> whose transgression <i>is</i> forgiven, whose sin <i>is</i> covered. Blessed <i>is</i> the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit <i>there is</i> no guile.
Ps 103:8-14	
Ps 10	

So, in the clash of worldviews, with the eternal souls of men being at stake,
we the Body of Christ are given our marching orders

v7-10 Submit...humble:

7 actions, evidence of real/sincere/genuine faith (faith works)

1. Submit to God

God is a relational God; relationships require 2 willing volunteers
God is willing, be willing!

God is the God of order

Order is based on humility and submission

- willingly subject ourself to God's authority
- obey His Word, His will, His ways
- seek/covet Him instead of the things of the world

Prepare our heart to seek the Lord (ala Jehoshaphat and Ezra)

2 Chron 19:3b ...hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments

Submit/Surrender to Life, Light, and Love

Lay down our selfish will for God's perfect will

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward
you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and
not of evil, to give you an expected end

Do not resist and be forced to "tap out" (a certainty),
surrender to everlasting love (Jer 31:3, Ps 139:17-18)

2. Resist the devil (in Jesus' name)

Oppose, stand against darkness, and hatred, and death

Because Jesus defeated him on the cross; Satan is a defeated foe!

Resist the tempter, liar, slanderer, murder, destroyer of men's souls

Be not deceived... 1 Peter 5:8

But 1 John 4:4 so the devil will flee!

Too often, we do not give the tempter much resistance

Too often, we resist God more than we do the devil

3. Draw near to God

Come near, drawn by His love and grace, under the shelter of His
wings (prayer shawl)

4. Cleanse your hands

Come clean of the worldly filth in our lives

Clean up our lives...by submitting, drawing near

Be holy because He is holy

5. Purify your hearts

A heart with no guile/deception

In one accord with the Lord, not on-again and off-again wavering
in the faith

Rom 12:1-2

Single-minded, with the mind of Christ

6. Be afflicted and mourn and weep

Realize the misery of our carnality...and grieve and wail

Weep for our spiritual struggles (Rom 7:18-25, Gal 5:16-17) with
worldliness, don't just blow it off

Be heart-broken over a divided heart

If/When we are reveling in the things of the world, let our
attraction to and our gratification with the things of
the world be empty and unfulfilling

Weep for the lost who are opposing themselves by rejecting the
wisdom of God (Biblical worldview) and embracing the
wisdom of the world (humanism)

7. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord

Turn from pride (exaltation of Self over God) to humility
(abasing Self before God)

Matt 23:12 *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased;
and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

1 Peter 5:5b-6 be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the
proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble
yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time:

Is 66:2b but to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is* poor
and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Is 66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his
word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you
out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be
glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they
shall be ashamed.

Application/Lessons

Then: Troublesome days, a time of refining and testing for the Church

Now: Troublesome days, a time of refining and testing for the Church

To whom are we drawn?

God?

Love (of God and others) is His drawing card

The devil and the world?

Lust (self-centered) is his drawing card

Have we truly learned v1-3

- the ways of the world fail, fall short?
- the lusts of the flesh can never be satisfied?

To varying degrees, we all struggle with

- double-mindedness
- pride
- the flesh...a willing spirit but weak flesh
- lust of the flesh, bombarded with the self-centered message of the world
- friendship with the world

We must let our light shine in these dark and troublesome days...by following our orders

Meditate on v4-10

Follow Jesus!