

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Don't Go There
James 4:11-17

The Epistle of James...instruction and exhortation to be Christ-like in very difficult times

Last time...the clash of two worldviews and our marching orders for that clash

The Biblical worldview (God is Center and Source)

vs

the secular humanist worldview (man is center and source)

Born-again believers in and followers of Jesus Christ are citizens of the kingdom of God

We serve a King, the King of all the earth

Our identity is neither Republican nor Democrat

Our identity is Jesus Christ

Our “party platform” is the Bible and the primary plank of our platform is Life

Since we met last, this nation had an election

One party platform stands diametrically opposed to our platform

It is a platform of murder, mocking of God, and hostility to Israel

The other party is compromised...supporting the primary plank of our platform
but not delivering on the promise

It is a platform that is pro-Israel

The election result: James 3:16

The reaction of many of us may be like Calvin's

[Calvin and Hobbes]

The God Who sets up kings and removes kings may be serving notice to USA for

- turning away from Him...“separation of Church and State” in 1948,
twisting/overturning the directive of the Founding Fathers
(Church was asleep, bought the lie)

The nation was focused on defeating a monstrous evil in the world...
the frontal assault of Hitler and Nazi Germany

Meanwhile, the devil slipped in the back door when no one was watching
to push/lure the worldview of USA (the leading missionary and
Bible sending nation) from the Biblical worldview to the secular
humanist worldview

And the devil used the post-WWII prosperity to further dull the spiritual
senses of the Church

- forsaking Him and despising His Word since 1962
- all the shedding of innocent blood since 1973
- attacking “man, the image of God” and redefining “marriage” since 2015

Gal 6:7-8

Jer 25:29a For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye (nations rebelling against Him just as Judah) be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished.

The Biblical worldview prevailed for about 170 years, but it was breached in 1948
(the same year Israel became a nation, a Biblically seismic event)
Since then the worldview of secular humanism has blossomed

Biblical worldview

- Foundation is the Creator God
- Absolute, unchanging Truth
- The ends do NOT justify the means...strong moral compass (r & w)
- Motives count

Secular humanism

- Foundation is fallen man
- Truth is relative, there are no absolutes
- The ends justify the means...no moral compass (Is 5:20)

“Irregularities”

- Biblical worldview: must be corrected
- Humanism: are not seen as irregular or are accepted

“Corruption”:

- Biblical worldview: must be purged or cleansed
- Humanism: Standard Operating Procedure, normal

“Rule of Law”:

- Biblical worldview: justice is fair, impartial, and certain;
lawbreakers are held accountable, order is established
- Humanism: different laws for different folks
(Ruling class vs common folks)
Lawbreakers are “justified” or rarely held accountable
No consequences for lying, cheating, and stealing...
the ends (good for person/group) justify the means
Confusion is established

Under the canopy of secular humanism, spiritual wickedness in high places has flourished and bombarded this nation's citizens for 60+ years

- Gov't
- Entertainment industry
- Media
- Technology (Social media etc)

God has been increasingly forsaken and mocked

The Word of God is increasingly despised and scorned...even though unknown

This nation, wanting to be freed of God, is provoking the anger of God...to its own hurt

By removing the Biblical worldview from education and government and replacing it with a secular humanistic worldview (leaving generations without a moral compass), this nation has taught its children to believe and tell lies

- "I am a monkey's uncle. Evolution is true, an established fact of science."
Result: believe in chance, randomness, vast amount of time... not creation or Creator
Ex: Kathryn's freshman roommate had never heard of Jesus Christ or the Gospel
- "A baby is not a baby until it is born, life begins at birth."
Result: savage murder of millions of innocent children in their mother's womb
- "God made me this way."
Result: justification for rampant sexual perversion, stealing the rainbow to deny or misrepresent God
Note: How convenient! To not believe in God but to blame Him or hide behind Him as justification to sin against Him

Truth has died in the street

Is 59:14-15 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he *that* departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased him that *there was* no judgment.

Considering how we got here, can the mess of this election be surprising? No
Can it be heartbreaking? Of course!

But, to the children of God living in this sinful nation, remember:

Jeremiah, Paul wept for the spiritual condition of their nation

Luke 10:20b (in spiritually fierce times) **rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

Phil 3:20-21 For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.
(our King is still reigning and will make things right)

Phil 2:15 ...be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world

This time...as lights in the world and in this nation at this time, correction and instruction in righteousness for the Church: “Don’t go there!”

v11-12 Don’t go there: speaking evil of and judging others

Speak not evil one of another:

While sojourning in this strange place, do not speak like the citizens of the world with unrestrained tongues (not controlled by indwelling Holy Spirit)

- lying
- slander
- hatred, fierce indignation
- envying and jealousy
- quarreling and strife
- malice...seeking harm for another
- backbiting
- gossiping and spreading rumors
- talebearing...involved in scandals
- bitterness and clamor

all of which are “corrupt communication” (Eph 4:29)

judges his brother:

To speak as the world speaks is to be condemning of others, thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought (Rom 12:3)

No person is qualified to righteously judge another person because do not know

- complete information
- their heart

God alone

- is all-knowing
- knows the heart, thoughts, and motives of every person
- is qualified to be the Righteous Judge

speaks evil of the law and judges the law:

To judge and condemn others is to:

- speak evil of the law by pointing fingers at others
 - slander God's Holy Word
 - Rom 7:12 the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.
 - Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. (Rom 3:10, 23)
 - Rom 7:18 in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing
 - shatter the Royal Law, thereby breaking the Law
 - James 2:8-10
 - Rom 13:10
- judge the Law
 - criticize the perfect and pure words of God
 - set oneself above the Law

If thou judge:

To judge the Law is to

- not be a doer of the Word
 - James 1:22-25
 - Rom 2:13 For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.
 - Luke 11:28 *blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*
 - Luke 6:46
- be a judge
 - a critic...to criticize the Word of God is to criticize God Himself (absolute insanity for a creature!)
 - an interpreter of the Law...Scripture interprets Scripture, the Author interprets the written Word, man does not
 - misrepresent the Lord God Almighty
 - John 3:16-17
 - a sinner imposing condemnation and judgment on another sinner

There is one Lawgiver, Who is able to save and destroy (i.e. judge):

Jesus Christ, the Living Word

John 1:14, 17

Matt 5:17

Rom 10:4

Rom 14:9-10

For to this end Christ both died, and rose,
revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and
living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or
why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we
shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

John 8:7, 11

Heb 7:22-27

Who are you that judges another:

Therefore, who are any of us to “unseat” King Jesus Christ from His seat of
judgment (Throne)?!

Remember...[Calvin and Hobbes]

Matt 7:1-2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye
judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall
be measured to you again.

In a world “begging” for the judgment of God, we are to

- stand down
- bow down
- shine in the darkness

Speaking evil of and judging others: Don’t go there!

v13-16 Don’t go there: worldly plans

Today or tomorrow we will go...get gain:

Making worldly plans for personal worldly gain

Self-centered, Self-determining

- when
- where
- what
- why

The objective: to make some money, as much as possible

Such worldly planning and pursuit is deeply flawed for the child of God

Know not...the morrow...life...vapor:

Such worldly planning and pursuit has lost sight of reality

Reality:

- Time

The past is gone, the future belongs only to the Lord, we have only been given the present

In the present, we need God's help...

I AM that I AM = continual present tense
(nothing about past or future)

Matt 6:11 this day our daily bread

With history as our point of reference,

Did anybody see 2020 rolling out as it has?

Who saw a week ago these post-election days coming?

Eccl 6:12b ...for who can tell a man what shall be after him
under the sun?

We do not know what tomorrow brings for us

- Life (on earth, in space and time)

vapor/mist/smoke...very short-lived, quickly dispersed

Job 7:1 *Is there* not an appointed time to man upon earth?
are not his days also like the days of an hireling?
(temporary placement)

Job 7:6a My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and
full of trouble.

Therefore, God's prophetic and eternal Word ministers to us

Ye ought to say:

Rather than making worldly plans for worldly gain, the follower of Jesus Christ
should have as his/her daily objective to serve the Lord

Matt 6:10 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...His plan, His timing

Phil 3:7-15

Prov 23:4-5 but Heb 10:5

2 Cor 3:4-5

Matt 6:33-34

Here on earth, we believers are promised neither riches nor tomorrow;
we are promised everlasting life in Christ Jesus!

Therefore...

Rejoice in your boastings...evil:

Self-confident, prideful boasting of our worldly plans is foolish...and evil/wrong

Prov 27:1 Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what
a day may bring forth.

Phil 3:3b have no confidence in the flesh.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly
places in Christ

Making personal, self-centered and self-serving worldly plans: Don't go there!

v17 knoweth to do good...not...sin:

Therefore, by revelation of the Word of God, to us who know to not go there

- speaking evil of and judging others
- making self-centered and self-serving worldly plans

but go there anyway, it is sin

- loving Self more than loving God
- loving pleasures of the world more than loving God
- being a friend of the world

Heb 12:1 sin so easily besets us;

the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak

Gen 4:7 sin is crouching at the front door like a lion, eager and ready to
devour us

we rule over it by the indwelling Spirit of the Living God

Rom 14:23b whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.

Keep the faith, sin not

Application/Lessons

No matter who lives in the White House,

- turbulent and troubled times lie ahead
- Jesus Christ sits on His Throne!
- John 16:33
- 2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through
God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down
imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the
knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the
obedience of Christ

Let's keep proper perspective...God's eternal perspective, the Biblical worldview

Historically, both Israel and the Church have prospered when being persecuted
Prosperity is much more dangerous than persecution to the people of God

How does the situation in our nation now and moving forward compare to the Persian Empire,
Haman, Mordecai, and Esther?

Esther 4:10-17

Right now, it looks like the godless have governing power
What is going to happen?

We will find out

If hostility... Acts 4:7-12, 19-20

Acts 5:29-32

Acts 12:22-24

2 Cor 2:15-16 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and
in them that perish: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and
to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these
things?

A: Jesus Christ our Lord, the King of all the earth

Col 1:27b Christ in you, the hope of glory

Ps 37:1-11 Fret not because of the evil doers
Trust in the Lord and do good
Commit your way unto the Lord
Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him
The meek shall inherit the earth

We do not know what God is doing with the election last week in

- individual lives...countless, believers and unbelievers (watching believers)
- the nations, this and others

Q: Will a revival break out?

- Israel

Q: Will an anti-Israel Administration make alliance with the enemies of God?

- Iran
- Russia
- China

Q: Will an anti-Israel Administration be a hook in the jaw with the
Magog Invasion?

But we do know that He is doing!

Rom 8:28...regardless of who lives in the White House!

Be alert and ready!

Rom 13:10-14

1 Thes 1

1 Thes 5:9

Fear not, little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom!!!!
With eyes on the prize, follow Jesus all the way to the Finish Line!
Be faithful witnesses...for such a time as this!
Trust Jesus...come what may!

Be encouraged!
Go encourage the discouraged!
Go lovingly shine your Light on the deceived and darkened!
Share your blessed hope!

Be liberal/generous in the invitation: "Get on the Ark!"

Do not focus on the worldly political leaders in Washington DC; leave them to the Lord
Watch and listen...and pray against the spiritual wickedness in high places
Do focus on the people in your lives, in your sphere of influence
The saved: need encouragement
The lost: need Light, Love, Life
Both: need you to be Christ-like

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!!!!