



PV Household Worship

April 16-21, 2018

❖ Daily Memory Verse:

James 4:6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

❖ Song: I Am Thine O Lord

Monday, April 16, "A line in the sand." Read James 4:1-6

Have you ever heard the term, "*draw a line in the sand*?" The term is an idiom that means to create or declare an imaginary boundary and insist that crossing it will cause trouble. To set a limit that you refuse to allow someone to go beyond. James 4:4 says, "*You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*" This verse draws a line in the sand! James says, "*Take your pick: Are you married to God or to the world?*" Can you imagine a couple that gets married, and a month later the husband tells his wife, "*I'm going out on a date tonight with my old girlfriend? I love you, but I want to keep in touch with her too!*" Needless to say, that marriage is in big trouble! When you get married, you vow to forsake all others and be devoted exclusively to your spouse. In the same way, when you come to Christ as Savior and Lord, you say goodbye to the world. It used to be your companion and friend. You spent many hours taking on its attitudes and living out its values. But you can't bring it into your marriage to Jesus Christ. He will have no rivals. You are either friends with the world and an enemy of God, or friends with God and an enemy of the world. And how frightening to make yourself the *enemy* of the living God!

- What happens if we try to love both God and this world?
- James says that "*anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*" What did Jesus say about God and the world? (Read Matthew 6:24, John 15:18-19)
- Memory Verse James 4:6
- Prayer - Jesus, help me to see that friendship with the world makes me an enemy of You.

Tuesday, April 17, "Monkey bait." Read James 4:1-6

Have you ever heard the story about the method used by people in North Africa to catch monkeys? A hunter hollows out a gourd and makes a hole in its side just large enough for a monkey to slide in his hand. The gourd is then filled with nuts and tied to a tree. The curious monkey is attracted by the smell of the nuts and reaches inside and grabs them. The hole in the gourd is too small, however, for the animal to withdraw its fist as long as it is full of nuts. Because his strong desire is to have the nuts, he refuses to release his prize. With a gourd on his hand he cannot grasp at tree branches and vines to make his escape and so he easily falls prey to his captor. Unwilling to relax his grasp, he actually traps himself! The ideas, cares, and pleasures of this world are a similar trap to us. We desire prominence, recognition, and grasp after more and more material possessions, which we think will bring us security. Our desires are strong as we hold on to the things of this world and become enslaved. How relevant is the James' warning, "*Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a*

friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." Remember what happened to the monkey. Don't be snared by a love for this world! The Hymn writer Fanny Crosby said it this way, "*Take the world, but give me Jesus - All its joys are but a name; But His love abideth ever, Through eternal years the same.*"

- How can we avoid loving the world? Read 1 John 2:15. What is worldliness?
- What are the things about this world/in this world that are hardest to let go of?
- Memory Verse James 4:6
- Prayer - Father, help me to see that worldliness is a snare that will leave me empty.

Wednesday, April 18, "There's no room for double occupancy." Read James 4:1-6

James 4:4, 5 says, "*Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?"* Several years ago we rented a condominium at the beach. We arrived and settled in looking forward to a good night's rest. In the middle of the night another family arrived to occupy the same condo! We jumped out of bed startled and they walked through the door startled. The agency that rented the condo had not let the owner know it was rented. They also showed up to stay for the weekend. It all worked out, but it reminded me that there's no room for double occupancy in the Christian's heart. You cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God. Someone paraphrased James 4:5-6 to say, "*Do you think that Scripture says without reason that the Holy Spirit, whom God caused to live in us, jealously wants us for Himself in order to pour out His grace on us generously?"* When we love the world and look to it for satisfaction it stirs up God's jealousy. He continually longs to keep us near to Him. He loves, corrects, comforts, guides, and urges us to get to know Him better. This pure possessiveness doesn't stifle us, but uplifts, frees, and satisfies us because it is full of His grace and truth. This sinful world system will never satisfy. Only He will. That's why He wants us all to Himself.

- Why is God intolerant of loving the world, even jealous for your affections to be towards Him only?
- Read James 4:5 from some different translations. What point do you think James is making here?
- Memory Verse James 4:6
- Prayer - Father, help me to love You with an undivided, pure heart.

Thursday, April 19, "You too are but a human." Read James 4:1-6

James 4:6 says, "*But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* James points us away from the danger of pride by pointing us to humility that comes from God's grace. Do you see the key to that verse? It is *grace*. Nothing is more wonderful! The Lord alone deserves thanks and praise—especially for the grace He has lavished on us. Any true achievements, success, or greatness are not rooted in ourselves. They are the product of God's matchless grace, upon which we are eternally dependent. Our deep selfish desires only puff us up. The mentality and values of this world encourage pride, prominence, and power. But God gave us His Son to humbly come and serve. God opposes self-centeredness and pride. But God pours out His wonderful grace on those who humbly depend on Him. When a Roman general returned from a victorious battle, ancient Rome would stage a parade to welcome

the conqueror home. To prevent the general's ego from becoming unduly swollen, a slave rode along with him in his chariot. Why? So that as the Roman crowds heaped praise on the general, the slave could continually whisper in his ear, *"You too are but a man."* When success, worldliness, and self-fulfilled passions are in control, we too may lose sight of our own frailty and allow our hearts to fill with destructive pride. Remember *"you too are but a human."* *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

- What does James mean that God "gives us more grace" in verse 6?
- What does it mean that God opposes the proud? Are there other scriptures that you are familiar with that point to God's opposition to pride? (See if you can find some)
- Memory Verse James 4:6
- Prayer - Father, deliver me from self reliance and show me how much I need You.
-

Friday, April 20, "He giveth more grace." Read James 4:1-6

James 4:5, 6 says, *"The Scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us'?" But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'* Have you ever thought about this question - *"What would force God to oppose me?"* According to James, it is pride. God takes pride and unfaithfulness personally. He calls His children who are loving the world adulterers. To cheat on God by living according to the world's system of self-reliance and pride, causes us to look like God's enemies. But God has not given up on His church. James offers reassurance. Even if we have been living this way, we have not outrun the grace of God. This grace is given to all who are in Christ. Our sin is serious, devastating, and wicked, but God gives more grace. He forgives our sinfulness through Christ and continues to give us grace. James refers to Proverbs 3:34: *God opposes the proud.* Our refusal to trust God to provide what we need is an act of pride. We are attempting to be the God of our own lives. God will lovingly, jealously oppose us when we do so—but He will not reject us in Christ. Instead, He calls us to humble ourselves and receive more grace from Him. He calls us to repent of the sin of self-reliance and worldliness and humbly recognize that He alone is God. God is calling us back to the peaceful, faithful path of trusting Him - the path of grace.

- Why do you think God hates pride and the proud spirit?
- James seems to say that God jealously longs for your faithfulness and love (Ex 20:5). Is there anything you struggle with putting before Him? Anything you are trusting more than Him?
- Memory Verse James 4:6
- Prayer - Thank You Jesus that You never give up on me. I have not outrun the grace of God.

Saturday, April 21, Read James 4:4-10

Review memory verse.

Prayer: Father, make us ready to hear your Word. Reveal your truth to our hearts. Give us grace to listen and obey. Bind the enemy of our souls and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Give us joy as we meet with your people for doctrine, prayer, and worship.