



# PV Household Worship

## July 9-14, 2018

❖ **Daily Memory Verse: James 5:20**

Let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

❖ **Daily Reading: James 5:19, 20**

❖ **Song: I Lay It All** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4XmBzDRjCs>

### **Monday, July 9, "Prayer is the first thing we do to rescue a brother or sister."**

When we pray we become partners with God in His work of salvation, healing, comfort, and justice. God can accomplish those things without us, but in His sovereign plan He gives us the privilege of being involved with Him through prayer. When we pray for one of our children in trouble, a church member having surgery, a neighbor who needs Christ, a fellow saint who is weak and sinning, or a pastor who needs strength, we are asking God to provide for that person what we can't provide. We are acting as go-betweens, asking God to direct His power in a specific direction. Prayer is not a magic formula for satisfying our own wishes, but it's an opportunity to join the Lord in His work in accomplishing His purposes. Remember James tells us that *"the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"*. So much so that even when a brother or sister is wandering from the truth and drifting into sin, prayer is the first thing we do to rescue him and bring him back. Let's humbly and earnestly pray for one another. The most powerful position on earth is kneeling before the Lord of the universe in prayer, trusting Him to act.

- How do the words, *"The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working"* relate to James 5:19, 20?
- What do you think it means to "wander from the truth"?
- Memory Verse James 5:20
- Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to humbly and earnestly pray for others.

### **Tuesday, July 10, "A multitude of sins is covered through reconciliation in Christ."**

Today's verses point out the unfortunate possibility that Christians stray and go off into sin at times. One of my favorite hymns is "Come Thou Fount" written by Robert Robinson in 1757. In the fourth verse the words of the hymn go like this: *"Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above."* James addresses this issue of a wandering heart in the closing verses of chapter 5. He is calling God's people to a ministry of restoration in guiding people back from sin to a deep fellowship with Christ. The covering of a multitude of sins is exactly what is found when one has peace in the work of Christ. The death of Christ covered the sins of His people, and they have been given eternal life. Our desire is that everyone would find that true joy comes when they are in communion with the one, true God. James is quick to point out that sin destroys fellowship with God. A multitude of sins is covered through reconciliation in Christ. Christians are responsible to care for one another through

correction. This responsibility is not a burden, but rather an opportunity to pour into one another's lives and see God glorified. Simply put, James is calling believers to love one another through care for one's relationship with God. This is done through teaching and correcting one another. Although sometimes difficult and painful, it is a loving action if it is grounded in love.

- Has there ever been a time that you have "strayed" from the truth? What did God use to bring you back?
- What does the word "reconciliation" mean? How can we bring a sinning person back from wandering?
- Memory Verse James 5:20
- Prayer - Father, *Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.*

### **Wednesday, July 11, "Having a personal concern for others."**

*"If you believe in God, show it!"; "If you have faith in Christ, live it!"; "If you are a child of God, act like it!"; "If you have a saving trust in what Jesus has done for sinners, let it be seen by works for His glory!"* These are all ways to summarize the epistle of James. He ends his letter by commending us to pray in response to every circumstance. We should pray for ourselves, praise God, and invite the spiritual leaders of our churches to pray for us when we are sick, or spiritually weak. We should confess sins to each other so we can pray for strength for each other to overcome. Prayer works; God hears and responds. If we really believe this is true, our behavior will reflect it. When a professing believer's behavior doesn't reflect it, and he has wandered from God's truth, we must understand what's at stake. Those wandering ones have walked away from truth and into sin. They are trusting a lie that is leading them away from the path of faith in God. If they can be turned back, they will be saved from death and their sins will be covered over. James seems to be writing about genuine Christians who will be saved from actual, physical death in this life if they can be turned back to walking by faith in God. This seems to suggest that, for the good of themselves and others, God is willing to end the temporary, physical life of a believer who has rebelled against Him and is continually ruining his testimony. James exhorts the church to have a personal concern for these people. Jesus is our great example as He continues to seek us even when we wander from Him!

- Read Matthew 7:3-5. How does this text relate to James 5:19, 20?
- What is the difference between sinfully judging and lovingly confronting?
- Memory Verse James 5:20
- Prayer – Father, help me to see the destructive, deadly fruit of sin the way You do. Give me courage to "rescue" my brothers and sisters who are straying.

### **Thursday, July 12, "If we love as Jesus, we pray and then confront the person in sin."**

The church is a community of diverse people who are joined together in Christ. To be in community is the exact opposite of being selfish or individualistic. Real ministry is the genuine care of others in the name of Jesus. In the church biblical teaching is imperative, fellowship is essential, buildings are important, but if there is no care or love, then we are nothing but a bunch of fakes. If we are not connecting and touching one another, then all is worthless. We are, as a church, called to encourage and mutually care for the people. So, if a Christian is in sin, then that is our call to help them be restored. The Apostle John puts it like this in 1 John 5:16, *"If anyone sees his brother committing a*

*sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life.*" If we love as Jesus, we pray and then lovingly confront a sinning person in the church. The urgency of this is that if a Christian has a bad attitude, is erring in doctrine, or is in sin, he/she dishonors the Lord and the church. The sinning person gives a false impression, and scandalizes the rest of us in the faith. If the person repents and is restored into fellowship with Christ, it will save his/her life and cover a multitude of sins. To "cover" means to forgive, and "*a multitude*" indicates the extent of forgiveness. This is a reflection of the forgiveness and love that Christ shows to us.

- Read 1 John 5:16. How are the words of the Apostle John similar to the words of James 5:19, 20?
- Many Christians avoid trying to restore a sinning believer because confrontation makes them uncomfortable. Is this valid? How can you know whether just to pray or when it is time to talk with a sinning person?
- Memory Verse James 5:20
- Prayer - Father, help me to love like Jesus and lovingly confront my brothers and sisters who are in sin.

### **Friday, July 13, "Nip sin in the bud."**

One of the most loving things you can do for someone is tell them when they're wrong. I'm not talking about arguing with someone who doesn't have the same opinion as you, but someone who is living contrary to God's clear truth as revealed in scripture. James exhorts that no matter how difficult it may be, if we really believe that we all are sinners, and that unchecked sin leads to pain and misery and eternal destruction, love will constrain us to give the gift of loving reproof. Before you start into this though, as much as you're able, put yourself in their shoes, and consider how to remind them of foundational gospel truths as you seek to open their eyes to their sin. Consider the manner in which you'd want to be approached when sin is seen in you by someone else. Make sure you diligently pursue the effort to make sure it comes off as a word of brotherly correction, not condemnation. Paul gives a great approach in Galatians 6:1- 3: "*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*" The ideal is that we live in such honest and regular community, that loving, gentle words of rebuke and correction are commonplace. As Barney Fife says, "*nip sin in the bud*", rather than giving it time and encouragement to grow into the tall nasty destructive weed it will become.

- Read Galatians 6:1-3. How are the words of Paul here similar to the words of James 5:19, 20?
- Have you ever had to confront a brother or sister in sin? Has anyone ever had to confront you?
- Memory Verse James 5:20
- Prayer – Lord, please purge Your church of the destructive sins that harm Your people and undermine Your glory.

### **Saturday, July 14, Read James 5:13-20**

**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.