

JAMES #8 - WORLDLINESS

JAMES 4:1-10

The Hebrew Christians were like us today, inclined to worldliness. The child of God is NOT to become attached to selfish ways, worldly lusts (pleasures) and goals.

- I. WORDLY LUSTS ARE THE CAUSE OF WARS AND FIGHTINGS (v.1-2)
 - A. LUST means "the longing desire to possess or enjoy"
 - B. Dissention among Hebrew Christians - trouble/hostility
 - 1. Troubles and hostility ALSO in churches today
 - 2. Result when men choose pleasure over God's way
 - C. God's way is given in EPH. 4:30-32 / GAL. 5:16

- II. PASSION FOR WORLDLY LUST HINDERS PRAYER (v.3)
 - A. They asked for the wrong things because wrong motive
 - 1. Asked to satisfy cravings and passions (v. 3b)
 - 2. God answers prayers made according to His will
 - B. "My brick" in the Street of Gold? NO! 1 JOHN 5:13-15

- III. PASSION FOR WORLDLY LUSTS IS ABOMINATION TO GOD (v.4-6)
 - A. This is spiritual adultery - unfaithful to wife/friend
 - B. Friendship with the world has a REMEDY GAL. 5:16
 - C. God has the right to make DEMANDS of His people (v.5)
 - 1. He is jealous over His own (undivided devotion)
 - 2. He expects us to be faithful MARK 12:30
 - D. God makes great PROVISIONS for His people (v.6)
 - 1. He is against any proud / selfish / haughty
 - 2. He gives abundant grace to the humble 1 PET. 5:5
 - 3. We must recognize HIS RIGHT to rule our lives

- IV. PASSION FOR WORLDLINESS DEMANDS REPENTANCE (v.7-10)
 - A. Six Scriptural Commandments for RIGHT living
 - 1. Complete submission/yieldedness to God (v.7)
 - 2. Resist the devil/refuse to yield MATT. 4:4,7,10
 - 3. Draw near (v.8) cleave/cling to God PSA. 145:18
 - 4. Cleanse our hands/purify our hearts PSA. 24:3-4
 - 5. Deep and THOROUGH repentance (v.9)
 - 6. Complete humility before God (v.10) (w/o pride)
 - B. God's Promises to all who live in humility to Him
 - 1. The devil will flee (vs. 7)
 - 2. God will draw nigh (vs. 8)
 - 3. God shall lift you up (vs.10)