

A Study of the General Epistles

(NT Survey Lesson 194--James 4)

Introduction: In this chapter James explores the challenge of carnality or worldliness. He discusses the characteristics and manifestations of worldliness; and then gives the proper spiritual response for the Christian, enumerating some of the blessings we will enjoy when we live spiritual lives.

Lesson aim: To help us know the manifestations of worldliness and how to avoid them.

Quarrels and conflicts with brethren--Jas. 4:1-3

1. What was the source of the quarrels and conflicts among God's people?
2. What attitudes led James' readers to "murder", fight and quarrel? (v. 2)
3. Why did James say some had not received earthly possessions? Why had God not heard the prayers of these worldly-minded Christians?

Friendship with the world rather than God--Jas. 4:4-10

1. What does James call those who seek to be friends with the world?
2. Friendship with the _____ is _____ with God.
3. Does God want us to be friends with Him? Is this what verse 5 is saying?
4. To what kind of people is God opposed? To what kind of people does He give His grace?

5. List and define the things we must do to enjoy God's favor? (v. 7-10).
6. What blessings are connected with these actions? (v. 7-10)

Judging others--Jas. 4:11-12

1. What does James urge brethren not to do in v. 11? When one speaks against or judges a brother what is he speaking against or judging?
2. James says we are not _____ of the law but _____ of it. Who is the one Lawgiver and Judge?

Leaving God out of future plans--Jas. 4:13-17

1. What was wrong with those who spoke of their business plans? (v. 13)
2. To what does James compare life?
3. What should we say when we speak of our plans for the future?
4. What attitude did boasting about one's plans indicate?
5. What results when we know the right thing to do and do not do it?