

JAMES 4:1 1-17

NO TIME TO WASTE

LAST WEEK PASTOR BO COVERED THE FIRST ELEVEN VERSES OF JAMES CHAPTER 4.

IN THOSE VERSES WE HEAR JAMES ADDRESS THE TWO SINS THAT EVERY OTHER SIN STEMS FROM.

PRIDE AND LUST.

BOTH OF THESE SINS ARE ROOTED IN SELFISHNESS.

IN FACT, EVERY SIN EVER COMMITTED IS ROOTED IN SELFISHNESS.

WE SEEK WHAT WE WANT ABOVE WHAT GOD WANTS.

WE PURSUE OUR DESIRES INSTEAD OF WHAT GOD DESIRES FOR US.

YES, CHRISTIANS CAN BE GUILTY OF THESE SINS, REMEMBER JAMES IS WRITING THIS LETTER TO THE CHURCH.

SO THEN WHAT SEPARATES US FROM THE NON-BELIEVER?

THE DIFFERENCE IS WHEN OUR SIN IS REVEALED WE CONFESS AND REPENT.

THAT'S WHY JAMES GOES ON TO SAY IN CHAPTER 4 VERSE 8-10

JAMES 4:8-10

⁸ DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU. CLEANSE YOUR HANDS, YOU SINNERS, AND PURIFY YOUR HEARTS, YOU DOUBLE-MINDED. ⁹ BE MISERABLE AND MOURN AND CRY. LET YOUR LAUGHTER BE TURNED INTO MOURNING AND YOUR JOY TO GLOOM. ¹⁰ HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, AND HE WILL EXALT YOU.

THIS IS THE PICTURE OF SOMEONE WHO GOD HAS REVEALED TO TRUTH TO.

GOD HAS REVEALED THE TRUTH OF WHO HE IS, HE HAS REVEALED THE TRUTH OF WHO HIS SON IS AND THE FACT THAT SALVATION CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN HIM.

HE HAS REVEALED THE TRUTH OF WHO WE REALLY ARE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU SEE YOUR SIN AS GOD SEES YOUR SIN AND IT CRUSHES YOU.

IT BREAKS YOUR HEART WHEN YOU FIND OUT WHO REALLY ARE, THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE SPENT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE CHASING AFTER YOUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES.

MATTHEW 5:4

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

THIS IS SPEAKING ABOUT A PERSON THAT HAS HAD THAT EXACT ENCOUNTER WITH GOD.

THEY ARE BROKEN AND MOURNING THEIR SIN.

AND WHAT DOES GOD DO FOR THAT PERSON?

IT SAYS HE COMFORTS THEM.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT GUYS?....

HE DOES, THERE IS A PEACE THAT COMES FROM FINALLY LETTING ALL THAT GO AND GIVING IT GOD.

THERE IS PEACE IN COMPLETELY SURRENDERING YOUR LIFE TO JESUS.

AS I HAVE BEEN READING THROUGH THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF JAMES, I NOTICED THAT A PATTERN EMERGES.

EVERYTHING HE SAYS POINTS BACK TO SOMETHING JESUS SAID IN A CRYPTIC WAY OR IN A PARABLE.

JAMES 4:9

⁹ BE MISERABLE AND MOURN AND CRY. LET YOUR LAUGHTER BE TURNED INTO MOURNING AND YOUR JOY TO GLOOM.

THIS VERSE NOT ONLY POINTS TO MATTHEW 5:4 BUT ALSO TO A PARABLE JESUS TOLD IN MY OPINION TO ILLUSTRATE THE CONCEPT OF MOURNING OUR SIN.

LUKE 18:9-14

⁹ AND HE ALSO TOLD THIS PARABLE TO SOME PEOPLE WHO TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS, AND VIEWED OTHERS WITH CONTEMPT: ¹⁰ “TWO MEN WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY, ONE A PHARISEE AND THE OTHER A TAX COLLECTOR. ¹¹ THE PHARISEE STOOD AND WAS PRAYING THESE THINGS TO HIMSELF: ‘GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE: SWINDLERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR. ¹² I FAST TWICE A WEEK; I PAY TITHES OF ALL THAT I GET.’ ¹³ BUT THE TAX COLLECTOR, STANDING SOME DISTANCE AWAY, WAS EVEN UNWILLING TO LIFT UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, BUT WAS ^[c]BEATING HIS CHEST, SAYING, ‘GOD, BE ^[d]MERCIFUL TO ME, THE SINNER!’ ¹⁴ I TELL YOU, THIS MAN WENT DOWN TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED RATHER THAN THE OTHER, FOR EVERYONE WHO EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLLED, BUT HE WHO HUMBLLES HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.”

THIS IS A VISUAL IMAGE OF WHAT JAMES IS TELLING US WHEN IT COMES TO MOURNING OUR SIN.

THERE IS AN URGENCY IN THE THINGS JAMES SAYS, AS PASTOR BO SAYS IT FEELS LIKE HE’S JUST BEATING US UP EVERY WEEK.

BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WHEN THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN.

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 44 AND 49 AD. LESS THAN 20 YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF JESUS, AND ONLY A FEW SHORT YEARS AFTER STEPHEN WAS MARTYRED.

DURING THE TIME OF THE PERSECUTION OF HEROD AGRIPPA.

JAMES HAS NO TIME TO WASTE!

HE HAS NO TIME FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN MAKING SURE THEY UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF SIN IN THE CHURCH.

THE FACT THAT PRIDE AND LUST DESTROY PEOPLE, FAMILIES, CHURCHES, CITIES AND EVEN NATIONS.

WHICH BRINGS US TO TODAY'S LESSON.

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY FOCUSES IN THE BOOK OF JAMES IS OUR SPEECH.

WHAT WE SAY, WHO WE SAY IT TO, AND HOW WE SAY IT.

JAMES DOESN'T JUST BROACH THE SUBJECT OF GOSSIP; HE SPEAKS ON JUDGMENT AS WELL AS WHAT WE SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE.

WHEN WE TAKE ALL OF THIS INTO CONSIDERATION, WE SEE CLEARLY THE MESSAGE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRYING TO CONVEY THROUGH JAMES.

PROVERBS 10:19

IN THE MULTITUDE OF WORDS SIN IS NOT LACKING, BUT HE WHO RESTRAINS HIS LIPS IS WISE.

PROVERBS 17:28

EVEN A FOOL, WHEN HE KEEPS SILENT, IS CONSIDERED WISE; WHEN HE CLOSES HIS LIPS, HE IS CONSIDERED PRUDENT.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE EVER HEARD THE PHRASE "THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK"?

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER NOT HEHEDED THAT ADVICE AND ENDED UP PAYING THE PRICE?

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM.

THAT'S WHY JAMES SAYS IN CHAPTER 3: VERSE 2

² FOR WE ALL STUMBLE IN MANY WAYS. IF ANYONE DOES NOT STUMBLE IN ^[A]WHAT HE SAYS, HE IS A PERFECT MAN, ABLE TO BRIDLE THE ENTIRE BODY AS WELL.

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY THAT IS LOUD AND OBNOXIOUS.

EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION AND THEY WANT EVERYONE IN THE WORLD TO KNOW THAT OPINION.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS GIVE US ALL IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO THE REST OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.

WE ARE SO QUICK TO SCREAM FROM THE TOP OF OUR LUNGS WHEN WE ARE OFFENDED OR WHEN OUR FEELINGS GET HURT.

AND GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE PEOPLE SCREAMING THE LOUDEST ARE THE ONES THAT ENDORSE SIN.

PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT ABORTION.

PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT HOMOSEXUALITY.

SO, ARE WE SUPPOSED TO HOLD OUR TONGUES?

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND GOOD.

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO PROCLAIM THE TRUTH?

YES!

WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CALLED TO PROCLAIM TO THE TRUTH.

BUT WHEN AND HOW WE DO IT MATTERS.

WE CAN'T LOOK LIKE THE PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT SIN.

WE MUST BE KIND IN OUR DELIVERY.

WE MUST POUR GRACE OVER THESE PEOPLE.

WE MUST HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE AS JESUS.

FORGIVE THEM LORD FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

AND WHEN WE GET OFFENDED, WE SHOULD NOT GO TO FACEBOOK AND MAKE CRYPTIC PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE POSTS.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO IF SOMEONE OFFENDS US?

WE GOT TO THAT PERSON, IN LOVE AND EXPLAIN HOW WE FEEL EXTENDING TO THEM THE SAME GRACE THAT'S BEEN EXTENDED US.

THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST WITNESSES AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN HAVE.

HOW WE RESOLVE CONFLICT.

BECAUSE THERE IS A WAY TO DO IT THAT HONORS GOD.

AND THAT MUST BE WHAT WE STRIVE FOR.

IF SOMEONE GETS HEATED, WE MUST REMAIN CALM, DE-ESCALATE THE SITUATION.

DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BROUGHT DOWN TO THAT LEVEL.

IF THEY ARE A BROTHER OR SISTER SOMETIMES THE SIMPLE QUESTION "DOES THIS CONVERSATION HONOR GOD?"

CAN SNAP THEM OUT IF IT.

IF THEY ARE NOT A BELIEVER SOMETIMES THE BEST THING TO DO IS WALK AWAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE THE LAST WORD.

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT JAMES HAS TO SAY ON THIS AS HE CONTINUES TO ADDRESS ISSUES THAT SEEMED TO HAVE COME UP IN THE CHURCH THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO.

JAMES 4:11,12

11 DO NOT SLANDER ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS. HE WHO SLANDERS A BROTHER OR JUDGES HIS BROTHER, SLANDERS THE LAW AND JUDGES THE LAW; BUT IF YOU JUDGE THE LAW, YOU ARE NOT A DOER OF THE LAW BUT A JUDGE OF IT. 12 THERE IS ONLY ONE LAWGIVER AND JUDGE, THE ONE WHO IS ABLE TO SAVE AND TO DESTROY. BUT WHO ARE YOU WHO JUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

JAMES IS ADDRESSING TWO DIFFERENT ISSUES HERE, GOSSIP AND PASSING JUDGEMENT.

I THINK PASTOR BO HAS DONE GREAT JOB OF COVERING THE GOSSIP PORTION OF THIS.

AND IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF JAMES IS COVERING A TOPIC THAT HE HAS ALREADY BROUGHT UP.

BUT IF IT IS IN HERE AGAIN IT IS BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT GOD WANTED.

SOMETIMES THINGS NEED TO BE REPEATED.

JAMES SPECIFICALLY SAYS DO NOT SLANDER ONE ANOTHER.

DO NOT SPEAK EVIL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

GOSSIP IS SLANDEROUS, NEGATIVE CONVERSATIONS THAT COME FROM ASSUMPTIONS AND A DESIRE TO SHARE THOSE THOUGHTS WITH OTHERS.

SOMETIMES WITH THE INTENTION OF HURTING SOMEONE AND SOMETIMES WITH INTENTIONS OF JUST WANTING TO TALK ABOUT SOMEONE.

GOSSIP RUINS LIVES, IT RUINS FAMILIES AND IT RUINS CHURCHES.

JAMES 4:11

11 DO NOT SLANDER ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS. HE WHO SLANDERS A BROTHER OR JUDGES HIS BROTHER, SLANDERS THE LAW AND JUDGES THE LAW; BUT IF YOU JUDGE THE LAW, YOU ARE NOT A DOER OF THE LAW BUT A JUDGE OF IT.

AS JAMES CONTINUES IN VERSE 11 HE ADDS...HE WHO SLANDERS A BROTHER OR JUDGES A BROTHER.

THE WORD USED FOR JUDGE HERE AS WELL AS WHEN JESUS USES IT IS A VERY INTERESTING WORD.

IT CARRIES WITH IT A THREEFOLD MEANING.

THE GREEK WORD IS KRINON.

IT MEANS TO TRY, CONDEMN AND PUNISH.

SO WHEN YOU STAND IN JUDGMENT OF A BROTHER YOU MAKE YOURSELF JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER.

PEOPLE LOVE THE VERSE “JUDGE NOT LEST YE BE JUDGED”

BECAUSE IN THEIR MIND THE BIBLE IS SAYING THAT WE SHOULD NEVER PASS JUDGMENT.

BUT LET’S LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS HAS TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT.

LUKE 6:37,38

37 “AND DO NOT JUDGE, AND YOU WILL NOT BE JUDGED; AND DO NOT CONDEMN, AND YOU WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED; ^[N]PARDON, AND YOU WILL BE ^[O]PARDONED. 38 GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. THEY WILL ^[P]POUR INTO YOUR LAP A GOOD MEASURE—PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER, RUNNING OVER. FOR BY YOUR STANDARD OF MEASURE IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU IN RETURN.”

WAIT A SECOND!!!!

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE HEARD THIS VERSE BE USED IN A WAY AS TO PROMOTE GIVING FINANCIALLY?

ME TOO!

BUT WHAT JESUS TALKING ABOUT HERE?

HE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MONEY OR TITHING.

HE IS SPECIFICALLY SPEAKING ABOUT PASSING JUDGEMENT.

WHAT HE'S SAYING IS THAT WHEN WE MAKE A JUDGMENT CALL ABOUT SOMEONE, THE AMOUNT OF GRACE WE SHOW IS THE AMOUNT OF GRACE THAT WILL BE SHOWN TO US.

WHEN WE SHOW MERCY THEN GODS MERCY WILL BE POURED OUT OVER US IN ABUNDANCE...

SO DO WE SHOW GRACE AND MERCY SO THAT GOD WILL SHOW US GRACE AND MERCY????

No!!!!!!

WE SHOW GRACE AND MERCY BECAUSE HE HAS ALREADY SHOWN US THAT GRACE AND MERCY.

I TOLD YOU GUYS THAT EVERYTHING JAMES SAYS TODAY GOES BACK TO A PARABLE OR SPECIFIC ILLUSTRATION JESUS USED.

LET'S TAKE QUICK LOOK AT THAT.

LUKE 6:41,42

41 AND WHY DO YOU LOOK AT THE SPECK THAT IS IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE, BUT DO NOT NOTICE THE LOG THAT IS IN YOUR OWN EYE? 42 HOW CAN YOU SAY TO YOUR BROTHER, 'BROTHER, LET ME TAKE OUT THE SPECK THAT IS IN YOUR EYE,' WHEN YOU YOURSELF DO NOT SEE THE LOG THAT IS IN YOUR OWN EYE? YOU HYPOCRITE, FIRST TAKE THE LOG OUT OF YOUR OWN EYE, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY TO TAKE OUT THE SPECK THAT IS IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE.

JESUS DOESN'T SAY DON'T MAKE A JUDGEMENT, DOES HE?

NO HE CLEARLY SAYS BEFORE YOU MAKE A JUDGMENT ABOUT YOUR BROTHER YOU FIRST BETTER TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT YOUR OWN LIFE AND BE 100% SURE YOU ARE NOT GUILTY OF THE SAME OR WORSE!

JAMES 4:11B

HE WHO SLANDERS A BROTHER OR JUDGES HIS BROTHER, SLANDERS THE LAW AND JUDGES THE LAW; BUT IF YOU JUDGE THE LAW, YOU ARE NOT A DOER OF THE LAW BUT A JUDGE OF IT.

PEOPLE THAT SAY EVIL AWFUL THINGS AGAINST A BROTHER RAISE THEMSELVES TO A POSITION OF JUDGE AND CONDEMN THEIR BROTHERS.

IN DOING SO THEY DEFAME THE LORD AND SHOW COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS LAW.

ELEVATING THEMSELVES TO A POSITION ABOVE THE LAW AND GOD HIMSELF.

JAMES 4:12

¹² THERE IS ONLY ONE LAWGIVER AND JUDGE, THE ONE WHO IS ABLE TO SAVE AND TO DESTROY. BUT WHO ARE YOU WHO JUDGE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

WE HAVE NOT THE ABILITY TO SAVE NOR DESTROY.

THAT IS IN GOD'S HANDS ALONE.

WE SHOULD BE MAKING JUDGEMENT CALLS THAT'S CLEAR.

BUT WE CAN MAKE A JUDGEMENT CALL WITHOUT PLACING OURSELF IN THE POSITION OF JUDGE OVER SOMEONE.

I CAN WATCH A CRIMINAL TRIAL AND COME TO MY OWN CONCLUSION BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME THE JUDGE, I WILL NOT BE THE ONE HANDING DOWN THE SENTENCE OR THE ONE ENSURING IT IS CARRIED OUT.

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

BACK TO JAMES.

JAMES 4:13-17

13 COME NOW, YOU WHO SAY, “TODAY OR TOMORROW WE WILL GO TO SUCH AND SUCH A CITY, AND SPEND A YEAR THERE AND ENGAGE IN BUSINESS AND MAKE A PROFIT.”¹⁴ ^[G]YET YOU DO NOT KNOW ^[H]WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE TOMORROW. YOU ARE A VAPOR THAT APPEARS FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN VANISHES AWAY. ¹⁵ ^[I]INSTEAD, YOU OUGHT TO SAY, “IF THE LORD WILLS, WE WILL LIVE AND ALSO DO THIS OR THAT.” ¹⁶ BUT AS IT IS, YOU BOAST IN YOUR ^[J]ARROGANCE. ALL SUCH BOASTING IS EVIL. ¹⁷ THEREFORE, TO ONE WHO KNOWS TO DO THE ^[K]RIGHT THING AND DOES NOT DO IT, TO HIM IT IS SIN.

WE HAVE A LOT GOING ON IN THESE 4 SMALL VERSES

LET’S UNPACK EVERYTHING.

JAMES ADDRESSES FOOLISHNESS, THE BREVITY OF LIFE, THE WILL OF GOD, ARROGANCE AND THE SIN OF OMISSION.

SO WE WILL TAKE THEM ON ONE BY ONE.

JAMES 4:13

13 COME NOW, YOU WHO SAY, “TODAY OR TOMORROW WE WILL GO TO SUCH AND SUCH A CITY, AND SPEND A YEAR THERE AND ENGAGE IN BUSINESS AND MAKE A PROFIT.”

SOME PEOPLE WILL TRY TO USE THIS VERSE AS A REASON NOT TO MAKE PLANS OR EVEN TO PROCRASTINATE.

MAKING PLANS IS VERY WISE.

THE ISSUE ARISES WHEN WE LEAVE GOD OUT OF THOSE PLANS.

WHEN WE GET SO CAUGHT UP IN OUR OWN PERSONAL GOALS THAT WE NEGLECT TO ASK GOD WHAT HE WANTS FOR US.

PROVERBS 16:9

A MAN'S HEART PLANS HIS WAY, BUT THE LORD DIRECTS HIS STEPS.

MAKING PLANS IS OK, BEING AN ORGANIZED BUSINESSMAN OR WOMAN IS OK, DESIRING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IS NOT INHERENTLY WRONG.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE TEND TO DO ALL OF THESE THINGS WITHOUT ASKING GOD TO DIRECT US.

WHEN WE LEAVE GOD OUT OF OUR PLANS, WE ARE SAYING THAT WE KNOW BETTER THAN HE DOES.

IT'S LIKE A STUBBORN TEENAGER THAT THINKS THEY DON'T NEED THEIR PARENT'S GUIDANCE.

"I WANT WHAT I WANT REGARDLESS OF WHAT GOD WANTS FOR ME."

ANOTHER THING WE DO IS WE TEND TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH.

"LOOK WHAT I DID."

"LOOK AT WHAT I'VE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT I HAVE BUILT."

ALL THE WHILE FORGETTING THAT GOD IS THE ONE THAT GAVE US THE ABILITIES AND RESOURCES THAT ALLOWED US TO ACHIEVE THOSE THINGS.

AS SOON AS I READ THIS MY MIND IMMEDIATELY WENT TO LUKE 12

LUKE 12:16

¹⁶ AND HE TOLD THEM A PARABLE, SAYING, "THE LAND OF A RICH MAN WAS VERY PRODUCTIVE.

WHY WAS HIS LAND PRODUCTIVE?

BECAUSE GOD BLESSED HIM!

LUKE 12:17,18

17 AND HE BEGAN REASONING TO HIMSELF, SAYING, 'WHAT SHALL I DO, SINCE I HAVE NO PLACE TO STORE MY CROPS?' 18 THEN HE SAID, 'THIS IS WHAT I WILL DO: I WILL TEAR DOWN MY BARNs AND BUILD LARGER ONES, AND THERE I WILL STORE ALL MY GRAIN AND MY GOODS.

WHO DID HE SAY THIS TO?

WHO DID HE REASON WITH AND FORM A PLAN WITH?

HIMSELF!!

HE DIDN'T SAY TO GOD, "LORD THANK YOU FOR THE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS YOU HAVE POURED OUT UPON ME. YOUR BLESSING IS SO BOUNTIFUL THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO STORE ANYTHING ELSE.... LORD WHAT SHOULD I DO?"

THAT'S THE PROPER RESPONSE, IS IT NOT?

THAT'S THE POINT JAMES IS DRIVING HOME THIS MORNING.

LUKE 12:19

19 AND I WILL SAY TO MY SOUL, "SOUL, YOU HAVE MANY GOODS LAID UP FOR MANY YEARS TO COME; TAKE YOUR EASE, EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY. '"

THIS DEFINITELY SOUNDS LIKE THE HUMAN WISDOM, THAT JAMES WARNED AGAINST IN CHAPTER 3.

AGAIN, THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, THE ISSUE LIES IN RELYING ON OUR OWN WISDOM INSTEAD OF GODS.

LUKE 12:20

20 BUT GOD SAID TO HIM, 'YOU FOOL! THIS VERY NIGHT ^{1e}YOUR SOUL IS REQUIRED OF YOU; AND NOW WHO WILL OWN WHAT YOU PREPARED?' 21 SO IS THE ONE WHO STORES UP TREASURE FOR HIMSELF, AND IS NOT RICH TOWARD GOD. "

WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STORE OUR TREASURES?

IN HEAVEN, WHERE MOTHS AND RUST CANNOT DESTROY.

DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MATERIALISM SO HEAVILY PROMOTED BY THE WORLD.

GOD DOESN'T CARE HOW BIG YOUR HOUSE IS, HE DOESN'T CARE HOW NICE YOUR CAR IS, HE IS NOT CONCERNED WITH YOUR STOCKS AND INVESTMENTS OR HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE IN THE BANK.

WHAT DOES GOD DESIRE ABOVE ALL?

OBEDIENCE!

YOU CAN HAVE A BIG HOUSE AND A NICE CAR, YOU CAN PLAN AND HAVE A GOOD RETIREMENT.

BUT NONE OF THAT CAN EVER BE ELEVATED ABOVE OUR LORD.

NONE OF THOSE THINGS CAN EVER BECOME A POINT OF COMPROMISING OBEDIENCE OR THE WILL OF GOD.

JAMES 4:14

14 [e] YET YOU DO NOT KNOW [h] WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE TOMORROW. YOU ARE A VAPOR THAT APPEARS FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN VANISHES AWAY.

THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE!!!

OUR LIVES ARE UNBELIEVABLY SHORT BUT WHAT WE DO WITH THEM MATTERS ETERNALLY.

THE AMOUNT OF SCRIPTURE THAT SPEAKS TO THE BREVITY OF LIFE IS ASTONISHING.

WHAT WE DO WITH EVERY MINUTE MATTERS.

THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME WE WASTE, ON THINGS THAT HAVE NO ETERNAL MEANING.

AND PLEASE DO NOT THINK I'M STANDING UP HERE IN JUDGEMENT OF YOU ALL, BECAUSE I AM JUST AS GUILTY.

I AM GUILTY OF WASTING TIME AND ENERGY ON THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER.

I AM GUILTY OF MAKING PLANS WITHOUT SEEKING THE WILL OF GOD.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

WE CAN AND WE SHOULD UTILIZE OUR TIME IN SUCH A WAY THAT DOES HONOR AND GLORIFY GOD.

PSALM 90:10-12

AS FOR THE DAYS OF OUR ^[K]LIFE, ^[L]THEY CONTAIN SEVENTY YEARS, OR IF DUE TO MIGHT, EIGHTY YEARS, YET THEIR PRIDE IS BUT LABOR AND WICKEDNESS; FOR SOON IT IS GONE AND WE FLY AWAY.

¹¹ WHO KNOWS THE POWER OF YOUR ANGER AND YOUR FURY, ACCORDING TO THE FEAR ^[M]THAT IS DUE YOU?

¹² ^[N]SO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS, THAT WE MAY ^[O]PRESENT TO YOU A HEART OF WISDOM.

THE PSALMIST TELLS US THE CURE FOR THE ISSUE OF WASTING TIME OR FOLLOWING OUR OWN DESIRES.

HE TELLS US TO ASK GOD TO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT TO HIM A HEART OF WISDOM.

A WISE PERSON KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS JUST HOW SHORT OUR TIME IS.

THE APOSTLE PAUL REITERATES THIS POINT IN HIS LETTER TO THE EPHESIAN CHURCH.

EPHESIANS 5:13-17

13 BUT ALL THINGS BECOME VISIBLE WHEN THEY ARE ^[G]EXPOSED BY THE LIGHT, FOR EVERYTHING THAT BECOMES VISIBLE IS LIGHT. 14 FOR THIS REASON ^[H]IT SAYS,

***“AWAKE, SLEEPER,
AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD,
AND CHRIST WILL SHINE ON YOU.”***

15 THEREFORE LOOK CAREFULLY HOW YOU WALK, NOT AS UNWISE BUT AS WISE, 16 REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL. 17 ON ACCOUNT OF THIS, DO NOT BE FOOLISH, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.

YOU SEE IT IS MUCH EASIER TO SEE WHERE YOU ARE HEADED IF YOU WALK IN THE LIGHT IS NOT?

SO I ASK YOU TODAY...

ARE YOU WALKING IN THE LIGHT?

IS JESUS CHRIST ILLUMINATING YOUR PATH?

HAVE YOU FULLY SUBMITTED YOUR LIFE TO HIM AND HIS WILL?

ARE YOU INVITING OUR LORD INTO YOUR PLANS AND ASKING HIM TO GUIDE YOU INTO THE FUTURE HE WANTS FOR YOU?

AS WE JUST READ LIFE IS SO SHORT AND SO VERY PRECIOUS DON'T LET IT SLIP THROUGH YOUR FINGERS.

15 THEREFORE LOOK CAREFULLY HOW YOU WALK, NOT AS UNWISE BUT AS WISE, 16 REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL.

PAUL SAYS REDEEMING THE TIME...

SOME TRANSLATIONS SAY MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL....

HOW OFTEN DO WE LEAVE OUT OF CHURCH ON FIRE FOR THE LORD?

EXCITED AT THE THOUGHT OF SHARING THE GOSPEL OR SERVING OTHERS.

WE LEAVE WITH EVERY INTENTION OF GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE....

BUT THEN WHAT HAPPENS?

WE GO HAVE LUNCH, WE SPEND THE REST OF SUNDAY AFTERNOON RELAXING (WHICH IS OK) BUT THEN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SUNDAY EVENING AND MONDAY MORNING SOMETHING CHANGES.

WE WAKE UP MONDAY MORNING AND ALL OF SUDDEN IT'S BACK TO THE GRIND.

BACK TO WORK OR WHATEVER IT IS WE DO DURING THE WEEK.

AND THE PASSION WE HAD SUNDAY IS GONE...

AND I'M NOT SAYING THIS HAPPENS TO EVERYONE BUT I KNOW IT HAPPENS TO A LOT OF US.

MYSELF INCLUDED SOMETIMES.

SO SALT CHURCH I HAVE A CHALLENGE FOR YOU....

LET'S BE A PEOPLE THAT REDEEM OUR TIME!

DON'T LET THAT PASSION FOR CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM FADE BETWEEN NOW AND TOMORROW MORNING.

WELL PASTOR HOW DO I DO THAT?

START YOUR DAY WITH THE LORD.

PRAYER, BIBLE READING, PRAISE MUSIC.

START YOUR DAY WORSHIPPING THE CREATOR THAT GAVE YOU LIFE!

JAMES 4:15

15 ^UINSTEAD, YOU OUGHT TO SAY, "IF THE LORD WILLS, WE WILL LIVE AND ALSO DO THIS OR THAT."

HERE IT IS!

THIS IS THE KEY TO NOT WASTING TIME, THIS IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING THE SEDUCTION OF HUMAN WISDOM...

PURSUE THE WILL OF GOD.

WHEN THE DISCIPLES ASK JESUS HOW TO PRAY WHAT DOES JESUS SAY?

"THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE."

AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE PRAYING ACCORDING TO GODS WILL AND NOT OUR OWN.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T ASK GOD TO BLESS US IN OUR ENDEAVORS IT MEANS THE WAY WE ASK LOOKS DIFFERENT.

"FATHER IF IT IS YOUR WILL THAT I GET THIS JOB THEN PLEASE LET IT BE SO"

"FATHER IF IT IS YOUR WILL THAT WE HAVE A CHILD PLEASE ALLOW US THAT BLESSING"

"FATHER BLESS MY CHILDREN ACCORDING TO YOUR GOOD AND PERFECT WILL"

YOU SEE IT'S NOT THAT GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO BRING OUR NEEDS TO HIM, IT'S THAT WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MAKING REQUESTS IS THAT HIS WILL IS DONE.

WHAT CAUSES US TO LEAVE GOD OUT OF OUR PLANS?

THE PLANNER, DESIGNER AND CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE?

WHY WOULD WE NOT WANT HIM INVOLVED IN EVERY SINGLE PLAN WE MAKE?

BECAUSE QUITE OFTEN WE DESIRE THINGS THAT ARE OUTSIDE OF GODS WILL FOR US.

AND THAT LOOKS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE.

SOMETIMES IT'S WORK, SOMETIMES IT'S THE PURCHASE OF A HOME OR A VEHICLE, SOMETIMES IT'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE.

BUT IT IS ALWAYS ROOTED IN SELFISHNESS.

A DESIRE TO HAVE, TO DO, TO ENJOY...

A DESIRE TO INDULGE OURSELVES IN THE PLEASURES OF THIS WORLD.

LUSTS OF THE FLESH, SOMETHING ELSE JAMES WARNED US ABOUT LAST WEEK.

LUSTS OF THE FLESH DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN SEXUAL DESIRE.

THE LUST OF THE FLESH IS ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF GODS WILL.

WE MUST UNDERSTAND TO PRAY OUTSIDE OF GODS WILL IS FUTILE.

PROVERBS 19:21

***MANY ^[E]THOUGHTS ARE IN A MAN'S HEART,
BUT IT IS THE COUNSEL OF YAHWEH THAT WILL STAND.***

YOU CAN DESIRE AND CHASE YOUR OWN WILL BUT IN THE END THE WILL OF GOD IS GOING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED, SO WHY FIGHT IT?

LIFE IS HARD ENOUGH WITHOUT FIGHTING A SOVEREIGN GOD EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

SUBMIT YOURSELF TO HIM AND HIS PURPOSES, IT DOESN'T MEAN YOUR LIFE WILL BE EASY BUT IT DOES MEAN YOU WILL HAVE PEACE BECAUSE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE TRUE MEANING OF ROMANS 8:28...

ROMANS 8:28

28 AND WE KNOW THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD  ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

YOU SEE IT IS GODS WILL TO WORK THINGS OUT FOR YOUR GOOD.

SO TRUST TO HIM TO DO JUST THAT.

KNOWING WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING THAT YOUR LOVING FATHER HAS YOU FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS.

IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO WALK THROUGH THE FIRE BUT IT DOES MEAN HE WILL BE THERE WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

JAMES 4:16

16 BUT AS IT IS, YOU BOAST IN YOUR  ARROGANCE. ALL SUCH BOASTING IS EVIL.

THERE IS NOTHING INHERENTLY WRONG WITH MAKING PLANS.

THE PROBLEM COMES WHEN WE LEAVE GOD OUT OF THOSE PLANS. WHEN WE RAISE OURSELF UP AS LORD IN OUR LIFE.

PROVERBS 27:1

DO NOT BOAST ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT A DAY MAY BRING FORTH.

THERE ARE LOTS OF PARALLELS TO JAMES' LETTER AND PROVERBS.

THE WARNING IN BOTH CASES IS AGAINST PRIDE.

WHAT JAMES DESCRIBES IS A PRIDEFUL ARROGANT PERSON THAT HAS COMPLETELY IGNORED GOD.

THERE ARE MANY THAT CLAIM TO BELIEVE IN GOD YET THEY DON'T INCLUDE HIM IN ANYTHING THAT THEY DO.

BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS LETTER IS WRITTEN TO A CHURCH.

SO EITHER SOME OF THIS WAS GOING IN THAT CHURCH OR JAMES FELT AS IF IT COULD BECOME A PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE....

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH THAT JAMES WAS WRITING TO AND OUR CHURCH HAVE IN COMMON?

THEY ARE BOTH FULL OF SINFUL PEOPLE.

SINFUL PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES.

TO BE A CHRISTIAN DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU WILL BE PERFECT.

THAT'S WHY THIS LETTER AND IT'S MESSAGE WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT TODAY AS IT WAS WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN.

WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN YOU DON'T IMMEDIATELY BECOME FILLED WITH ALL THEOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.

IT TAKES YEARS OF STUDY, PRAYER AND DISCIPLESHIP.

JAMES IS DISCIPLING THIS CHURCH.

HE IS DOING EXACTLY WHAT JESUS COMMANDED ALL OF TO DO.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

¹⁸ AND JESUS CAME UP AND SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, "ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. ¹⁹ ^[E]GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ²⁰ TEACHING THEM TO KEEP ALL THAT I COMMANDED YOU; AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ^[E]ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE."

JAMES IS TEACHING THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS.

WITHOUT ANY FLUFF, HE'S NOT WATERING DOWN ANYTHING TO MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE.

HE'S GIVING THEM THE PURE UNADULTERATED TRUTH, HE HAS NO TIME TO WASTE.

WHY?

BECAUSE A WATERED-DOWN GOSPEL ISN'T A SAVING GOSPEL.

THE GOSPEL DOES NOT PROMISE THE SINNER WHAT THE SINNER ALREADY WANTS...

WHAT DOES THE SINNER WANT?

GOOD FEELINGS, BLESSINGS, HEALING, HAPPINESS, RICHES, MONEY, SUCCESS, ANGELS WORKING FOR HIM FULL TIME...

ALL UNREGENERATE PEOPLE WANT THAT NATURALLY.

THAT'S NOT THE PRODUCT OF THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN AN UNREGENERATE HEART.

THE GOSPEL PROMISES WHAT THE SINNER DOES NOT WANT!

THAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS, FORGIVENESS, HEAVEN AND DOMINATING ALL OF THAT CHRIST!!!

WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE WORLD TOWARDS CHRIST?

THEY HATE HIM!

SO HOW CAN YOU TELL A TRUE BELIEVER, CONSUMED WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST, CONSUMED WITH A HUNGER FOR THE WORD OF GOD.

LONGING TO BE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS, LONGING TO HUMBLE AND BROKEN.

DESIRING ABOVE ALL THINGS TO BE OBEDIENT FROM THE HEART, LONGING TO WORSHIP.

WE CAN NEVER BE TOO OBEDIENT; WE CAN NEVER WORSHIP TOO MUCH.

THESE ARE ALL EVIDENCES OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE.

A TRUE BELIEVER DESIRES TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE WILL OF GOD.

NOT SOMEONE THAT TRIES TO BARGAIN AND REASON TO JUSTIFY THEIR PERSONAL PURSUIT OF SUCCESS!

SOMEONE THAT KNOWS THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE!

JAMES ENDS CHAPTER 4 WITH THIS...

JAMES 4:17

17 THEREFORE, TO ONE WHO KNOWS TO DO THE [RIGHT](#) RIGHT THING AND DOES NOT DO IT, TO HIM IT IS SIN.

IF YOU KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT AND DON'T DO IT THAT IS SIN!

IF YOU HAVE A JOHN MACARTHUR STUDY BIBLE HIS NOTE ON THIS VERSE SAYS...

“THE SIN OF OMISSION LEADS TO THE SIN OF COMMISSION”

HOW OFTEN DO WE KNOW THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND WE DON'T DO IT...

OR WE KNOW THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND CHOOSE TO DO NOTHING INSTEAD.

IT IS A VERY DANGEROUS THING FOR US TO IGNORE OUR CONSCIENCE...

OUR CONSCIENCE IS THE MEANS BY WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS US.

WE SHOULD BE OPEN AND RECEPTIVE TO CORRECTION.

THE CHRISTIAN WALK IS ONE THAT IS FULL OF TRAPS AND SNARES.

IT IS FULL OF ROADBLOCKS AND DETOURS.

WE MUST ALLOW GOD TO GUIDE US, WITH HIS WORD AND BY HIS SPIRIT.

REMEMBER JESUS IS THE ONE THAT ILLUMINATES THE ROAD ON WHICH WE TRAVEL.

IF WE GET TOO FAR AWAY FROM HIM, WE CAN NO LONGER SEE BECAUSE WE ARE WALKING IN DARKNESS.

I WANT YOU GUYS TO PICTURE THIS IN YOUR MIND.

YOU ARE WALKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

A VERY CLOUDY NIGHT, NO STARS, NO MOON, NO STREETLIGHTS.

BUT YOUR SAVIOR IS WALKING NEXT TO ILLUMINATING THE PATH.

ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMETHING CATCHES YOUR EYE AND YOU GET A FEW STEPS BEHIND.

YOU CAN STILL SEE BUT NOT QUITE AS GOOD.

THEN SOMETHING ELSE CATCHES YOUR EYE.

YOU GET A FEW MORE STEPS BEHIND.

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE IS THE CURVE IN THE ROAD UP AHEAD.

YOU CONTINUE TO GET DISTRACTED AND JESUS ROUNDS THE CURVE.

HE HAS NOT LEFT YOU; HE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER BUT YOU HAVING BECOME DISTRACTED CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

SO YOU FREEZE, RIGHT THERE, COMPLETED DEBILITATED WITH FEAR BECAUSE YOU ARE IN TOTAL DARKNESS.

YOU'RE EMBARRASSED AND ASHAMED YOU LOST SIGHT OF HIM SO YOU REMAIN QUIET AS HE CONTINUES ON DOWN THE PATH.

FINALLY, YOU BECOME SO GRIPPED WITH FEAR, PANIC SETS IN, YOU ARE ALONE AND HOPELESS.

SO YOU CRY OUT..... “JESUS!!!!”

AND INSTANTLY THERE HE IS, BECAUSE HE SAID HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US.

BUT WHY LET IT GET TO THAT POINT, WHY GO THROUGH THAT FEAR AT ALL.

THAT’S WHY LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTING OUR CONSCIENCE IS SO VERY IMPORTANT.

DOING WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT.

IT IS MUCH LESS PAINFUL IF WE JUST DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

I KNOW WE HAVE COVERED A LOT TODAY AND I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU ARE FEELING THE WEIGHT OF IT.

I KNOW I DID AS I STUDIED IT.

BUT FEELING THE WEIGHT OF THE MESSAGE DOESN’T MEAN WE SHOULD BE WEIGHED DOWN BY THE MESSAGE.

WE SHOULD BE TURNING ALL OF IT OVER TO GOD.

WE SHOULD BE IN EAGER PURSUIT OF HIS WILL IN OUR LIVES.

LIVING IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

EXCITED ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.

ASKING GOD TO HELP US AS WE MAKE OUR PLANS.

LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY SIN AND WEIGHT THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES US. RUNNING THE RACE WITH ENDURANCE.

FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTOR OF OUR FAITH!

PASTOR BO OFTEN ENDS WITH A BLESSING FROM HEBREWS CHAPTER 13.

SO MANY OF YOU WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH IT WHEN I READ IT BUT WOW DOES IT FIT WITH TODAY'S MESSAGE!

HEBREWS 13:20,21

²⁰ NOW THE GOD OF PEACE, WHO BROUGHT UP FROM THE DEAD THE GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP ^[b]THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT, OUR LORD JESUS,²¹ EQUIP YOU IN EVERY GOOD THING TO DO HIS WILL, BY DOING IN US WHAT IS PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TO WHOM BE THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

REMEMBER GUYS WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE!

LET'S USE IT WISELY AND FOR HIS GLORY!

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK AND MAY GOD USE YOU TO BE A WITNESS TO SOMEONE IN NEED!

AND IF YOU'RE HERE TODAY AND YOU DON'T KNOW JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, THEN I URGE YOU TO CRY OUT TO HIM.

CONFESS YOUR SINS AND REPENT.

THE ELDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE SERVICE IF ANYONE NEEDS PRAYER.

IF YOU HAVE FELT THE SPIRIT OF GOD BECKONING TO YOU TODAY AND YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT, FIND MYSELF, PASTOR BO OR ONE OF THE ELDERS AND LET US PRAY WITH YOU AND GET YOU HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU, HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

