



A Man & His Enemies

By Keith Boggs

Text James 3:13-4:10

Correctly identifying our enemies and rethinking God biblically is at the heart of all our hopes and becoming a man who walks in victory.

There are three enemies that we need to be very aware of... I will deal with them one at a time but keep in mind they are all working together to take men down... and not just men... families, and churches.

After each enemy is identified, I will offer at least one passage as an answer to hope that lies within us... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!

Before I get started let me make two statements...

1. Richard Owen Roberts, The most urgent task before every professed Christian is to get truly aware of the God of the Bible.

2. Your view of God determines everything about everything else.

We must possess a high view of God, of Christ and His salvation or these enemies will most certainly defeat us.

God set our minds, hearts, and lives on fire by the revelation of who You really are!

I. Sin Is An Enemy – Read James 4:1-3

War – wage war, fight for control

Lust – desire greatly, long for

Murder//covet// fight//war

Genesis 4:6-7, So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

Timothy Dwight, Sin is always rooted in our ignorance of God's greatness.

Root sins must be distinguished from **fruit sins** in our lives and both must be repented of.

Under the surface...
hidden, hard to detect,
they are breeder sins...
all sins grow on them

Sins that are obvious and on the surface of life are ugly. They are the sins that embarrass us men, as families... and as churches.

No root sin can thrive in a life that is, by God's grace, pursuing an ever clearer view of God.

How can a man be proud who sees God as He is?

If men are going to be victorious over the enemies of pride, unbelief, and selfishness, we need to begin with God.

And our view of God will determine if we will be victorious over our enemies.

1. The Root Sin of Selfishness – James 1:1-3

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do *they* not come from your *desires for pleasure* that war in your members? ²You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet¹ you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

- Selfishness whispers that we cannot be happy unless we get the things we want.
- We think that God is like us.
- If my view of God is low, my view of self will be high. And with a high view of self, I will think it my right to say what's acceptable and unacceptable conduct. I will be the one to define so. I'll be the one to justify certain acts and say... "Oh that's alright under these circumstances. God understands."
- You will understand how serious sin when you have a right view of God.
- Self always salutes satan.

2. The Root Sin of Unbelief – James 4:5

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

Hebrews 3:12-19, Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God

- Unbelief says that the things which God has told us about Himself and our obligations to Him are doubtful.
- It questions whether sin is actually poisonous and whether holy living produces happiness.
- Unbelief, motivated by our pride, decides that our ideas about these matters are more trustworthy than the God who cannot lie.
- Unbelief will always choose to act upon the assumption that sin is telling the truth.

3. The Root Sin of Pride – James 4:6-7

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble."

God resists – rejects, opposes, comes against

- A proud man feels that he has the right to take on duties that the Lord forbids.
- **Newman Hall**, Pride is the parent of numerous sins. High notions of what we deserve from God, or from men, produce impatience, discontent, envy, anger, strife, all uncharitableness.
- No real repentance will ever take place without dealing with pride, unbelief, and selfishness.
- If you try to manage your anger... or any other sin, you will find that pride, unbelief, and selfishness will make that impossible.

How long are you willing to watch the same sins return in your life, your home, and your church before you deal with the roots?

Too many men despair and say that **holiness is not possible** for them. **The real problem is a misdiagnosis, not the power of the gospel.**

The Answer: READ Romans 5:12-20

II. Society Is An Enemy – James 4:4-5

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

Enmity – hostility, hatred to God

Our culture drifts towards skepticism and the churches words are weightless.

Society that has no shame in mocking Christianity. At one time in our nations history, God powerfully used a man...

by the name of Timothy Dwight to launch the nation into the 2nd Great Awakening... a move of God that would last 50 years.

His preaching on the campus of Yale University reminded his audiences that...

The Holy God is ever present. He asked his audience, "Have you ever dreamed that God has already entered the secret chambers of your soul and that He dwells there beholding with an awful survey all your forgetfulness of Him? Your violations of His Law? Your abuses of His grace?"

At the end of the series of 1799, the first of four waves of genuine revival swept through Yale. In one year, over 1/3 of the students were truly converted. More than 30 of those young men devoted themselves to the Christian ministry. They became the pastors who would lead churches through the Second Great Awakening... a revival that lasted nearly 50 years impacting all of the nation.

*Not all of the students were saving-ly changed during this time. But even non-Christians changed their behavior. **They were now ashamed to mock Christianity.***

The Answer: READ Colossians 2:1-10, [4]—[8-10]

III. Satan Is An Enemy – James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Resist the devil – reject, oppose

C.S. Lewis, There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by satan.

Junior Hill, "The devil is out to get men of God. If you are a man of God... whether you are a preacher, a deacon, a minister of music, a Sunday school teacher, a staff member, or just a committed layman... you are in a mortal conflict with the powers of darkness that want to have you."

Steve Farrar, "The enemy watches your game films. He knows your habits, your weaknesses, and your tendencies. He desires to separate you from the work of God in your life."

1 Peter 5:8, Be sober, be vigilant; because ^[a] your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

devour [drink you down, to gulp entirely, swallow up]:

It is a picture of a snake gulping entirely, swallowing up its prey. It does not happen quickly. A snake cannot swallow up its prey within a few minutes... it takes time. The same is true with the serpent, the devil, his success does not happen quickly. He gains a foothold as one part of our lives gives opportunity, then he establishes another foothold, then another, then another until he completely devours us.

Ephesians 4:27, give no place [a spot, a location, opportunity] to the devil.

His pursuit will never stop.

He will use everything he can to bring me and you down.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money, or finally that strange desire for the beauty of the world, of nature. Joy in God is in course of being extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real; the only reality is the devil. Here, Satan does not fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God. The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination are taken from us. It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God."

The Answer – READ 1 Peter 5:4-11

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Victory doesn't come by attacking our immorality or drunkenness, swearing, lying, or cheating. We must begin by taking a long look at the majesty of God.

James 4:4, Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 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 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.