

Wednesdays for July Sermon Series

- The Problem of Temptation—7/5/23
- The Problem of Living What You Learn—7/12/23
- The Problem of Snobbery—7/19/23
- The Problem of Practicing What You Profess—7/26/23
- The Problem of The Tongue—8/2/23
- The Problem of Determining Wisdom—8/9/23
- The Problem of Selfishness
- **The Problem of Overconfidence—8/30/23**
- The Problem of Fraudulent Gain

Review:

Part 1 Wednesday Evening, July 5

Title: The Problem of Temptation

Part 2 Wednesday Evening, July 12

Title: The Problem of Living What You Learn

Scripture Reading: James 1:19-27

Text: James 1:22

Part 3 Wednesday Evening, July 19

Title: “The Problem of Snobbery”

Scripture Reading: James 2:1 – 13

Part 4 Wednesday Evening, July 26

Scripture Reading: James 2:14 – 26

Title: “The Problem of Practicing What You Profess”

Part 5 Wednesday Evening, August 2

Title: “The Problem of the Tongue”

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

Part 6: Wednesday Evening, August 9

Title: “The Problem of Determining Wisdom”

Scripture Reading: James 3:13 – 18

Part 7: Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Title: “The Problem of Selfishness”

Scripture Reading: James 4:1 – 12

Now tonight:

Part Eight: Wednesday Evening, August 30

Title: “The Problem of Overconfidence”

Scripture Reading: James 4:13 – 17

Text: “But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil” (**James 4:16**).

James 4:16 (HCSB)

¹⁶But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Introduction:

There is a difference between “*overconfidence*” and “*self-confidence*.”

- **Overconfidence** results from the delusion that you can handle any problem all by yourself.
- **Self-confidence** in its most wholesome meaning is born of confidence in Christ and his indwelling presence.

Paul’s was this kind of confidence when he said, “*I can do all things through Christ*” (**Phil. 4:13**).

I. **Overconfidence Blinds You to the Brevity of Life (James 4:13 – 14).**

The repetition of the word “*and*” four times in one verse indicates a presumptuous confidence.

A. *The brevity of life may catch you unprepared.*

In **verse 13** this man’s main concern is to “*get gain*,” to accumulate wealth.

After all, this is the world’s criteria of “*success*.”

But as long as he was busy trying to “*get gain*,” he was not preparing to meet God.

This brief life was running out, and chances were that he would be caught by death unprepared.

B. *Life is miniscule when compared with eternity.*

It is like *vapor* that is but for a moment (**v. 14**).

But as brief as life may be, it is the only life and chance you have.

II. **Overconfidence Encourages You to Take Foolish Risks (James 4:13).**

Many Jewish merchants were restless adventurers.

They traveled from city to city in pursuit of gain.

A combination of *overconfidence* and past successes would often encourage a merchant to take one foolish risk and lose it all.

III. **Overconfidence Ignores the Single Most Important Factor in Determining the Success of Your Life (James 4:15).**

What is this factor? It is the will of God.

Even if we do not utter the phrase “*If it is the Lord’s will*,” in connection with every plan for the future, its spirit should always be retained.

IV. **Overconfidence Disregards God’s Law (James 4:17).**

James 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

For a person to know the uncertainty of life and yet to live in utter disregard of the truth is for him to sin.

In **Luke 12:47 – 48** Jesus makes it quite clear that the penalty for disregarding God’s law increases with increased knowledge.

Luke 12:47-48 (KJV)

⁴⁷And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*.

⁴⁸But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

God’s law is immutable. It still stands.

- Attitudes have changed, but God’s law hasn’t.
- Interpretations have changed, but God’s law hasn’t.

It still asserts, “*The wages of sin is death*” (**Rom. 6:23**); “*The soul that sinneth, it shall die*” (**Ezek. 18:4**); and “*Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap*” (**Gal. 6:7**).

Conclusion:

May God help us to live a humble, trusting, and obedient life—one that is submissive to Christ.

I leave you with the following verse my dear friends:

Matthew 16:24-26 (KJV)

²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

²⁵ *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

²⁶ *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Beach, B. OBC—Wed 8/30/23—Part Eight of Summer Series on Book of James (borrowed from *The Pastor's Annual, 2012*; T. T. Crabtree); edited some points and some parts to my own style.
