

James 4:1-10
“Living In The Right World”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 4:1-10) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Living In The Right World”

~ INTRO ~

NOW... THIS MORNING... WE RETURN TO OUR STUDY IN JAMES ...

- By exploring practical Christian living...
 - At the *Crossroads of 2020 Culture*.

REMEMBER... JAMES...

- Has been highlighting what *Genuine Faith* looks like...
 - In practical daily living!

WE'VE SEEN...

- Six-ways to identify genuine FAITH:
 - 1) Response to trials (James 1:2-8)
 - 2) Participation in God's mission (James 1:22-25)
 - 3) Worship that works (James 1:26-27)
 - 4) Affections that are fair (James 2:1-13) avoiding sinful partiality!
 - 5) Faith that bears fruit (James 2:14-20)
 - 6) Talk that has been transformed (James 3:1-12)

AND ALL OF THESE TOPICS...

- Were brought to the culminating point in (James 3:13)...
 - When James says, *“prove it!”*
 - What kind of life are you living?
 - Is it from the Lord (OR) is it from culture?

OK... HERE'S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS:

- Read (vv.1-10) NLT

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HERE’S WHAT WE’RE TO UNDERSTAND:

- a) James identifies the war against our soul (vv.1-4)
- b) James calls us to understand our spiritual condition (v.5)
- c) James wants us to have a change of perspective – **submission** (vv.6-10)

HERE’S THREE WAYS WE CAN THINK ABOUT IT:

IDEA #1 – RECOGNIZING THE WAR: (vv.1-4)

(Gal. 5:17) NLT

“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”

CHURCH...

- Much of the battle is won by understanding this little truth...
 - There’s a moment-by-moment fight against our souls...
 - Because Satan doesn’t want us to succeed!

AND JAMES... IS REBUKING...

- The bad habits... Christians settle for... as they buy the lie!

NOW... IN THE BOOK OF **(Jude 11) NLT**

- We get a snapshot of three-men who were unwilling...
 - To curb bad habits before God!
 - (Cain / Balaam / Korah)

1. **CAIN**... (Gen. 4:7) NKJV

- As an early child of God...
 - He allowed **misguided-anger** to destroy his life...
 - With jealousy & murder.
- BUT... God told Cain to exercise **self-control**...
 - Before SIN destroyed him (v.7).

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HERE'S A LESSONS FOR LIVING:

- We have to confront sinful dirt in our lives before it destroys us!

*What is God flashing before your mind... right now?

- Recognize the war (God wants to free you / Satan wants to trap you)

2. **BALAAM**... (Num. 22 / 25 / 31)

- A prophet of God...

➤ Allowed **greed** to **blind** his actions...

○ And he went against God's direction (22:12) NLT.

- (1 Tim. 6:10) NKJV >>> Read From Bible <<<

BALAAM...

- Was a greedy guy who keep going in the wrong direction.

SO TOO... IF WE “*stubbornly resist*” (Num. 22:32) NLT...

- We become blinded by sin...

➤ And don't recognize God is trying to get our attention.

3. **KORAH**... (Num. 16)

- This guy's **rebellion** against God...

➤ Lead to an **organized opposition** against man.

○ (God's National leaders – Moses & Aaron).

*We see a lot of this happening in our country today!

- Rebellion that is being advanced thru lying... looting... & rioting!

REAL TIME APPLICATION:

- Recognize **the current war**...

➤ AND realize that *contending for the faith* (in this moment)...

○ Is to do your civic-duty by voting for **Godly POLICIES**...

▪ And avoid the debate about personalities!

IDEA #2 – UNDERSTAND YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION: (v.5)

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GOD DESIRE EXCLUSIVE LOYALTY!

- He desire all of our heart...
 - All of our minds...
 - All of our strength.

FLIP TO (Rom. 7:21 – 8:2) NKJV

- i. **Weakness** is our sinful humanity (7:21-24)

Wretched = Exhaustion thru hard labor / battle.

Body of death...

- In Tarsus where Paul was from...
 - When someone was convicted of murder...
 - The corps was chained to the offenders back.

POINT BEING:

- Paul understood the exhausting that comes...
 - From trying to live the Christian life...
 - Apart from the power & freedom in Christ.

- ii. **Victory** = Is found only in Jesus Christ (7:25)

- iii. **Vision** = Moves us forward by faith (8:1-2)

(v.2) *made me free* = A past completed act... with ongoing results.

IDEA #3 – CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE – SUBMISSION: (vv.6-10)

- i. Grace-upon-grace so we can humble ourselves
 - (Luke 18:13) NLT
 - We can be honest with God.
- ii. Submission allows ALL changes to be genuine
 - (2 Cor. 7:9-11) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

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THE MINISTRY TEAM AROUND HERE...

- Wants to make sure you're moving forward...
 - By engaging the Gospel of Christ...
 - In ALL areas of your life.

- We want you to engage the Gospel by...
 - 1) Knowing Jesus personally (spend time).
 - 2) Assembling with the church – every weekend.
 - 3) Apply Biblical truths at home.
 - 4) Walk them out in public.

SO... LISTEN...

- If you've neglected Jesus...
 - Walked away from Jesus...
 - Or don't know Jesus...

- And you just need a fresh start for this week...
 - Will you raise up your hand.

~ COMMUNION ~

~ LET'S PRAY ~