

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



Warning Against Worldliness

Part of the James Series

James 4:1-10

Robert L. Watt
September 27, 2015

Warning Against Worldliness

Introduction:

- Chapter 4 continues the admonitions of chapter 3 (tongue).
- What is worldliness?
- “**Worldliness**” is having heart affections, attitudes or activities that pertain to the world (“kosmos”), that world system presently controlled by Satan and his evil forces and which is opposed to God’s kingdom and His followers.
- God’s kingdom rule and His followers promote godliness.
- Worldliness is thus ungodliness.
- Worldliness by this definition is not what is combatted by the Amish in Lancaster County.

Warning Against Worldliness



Warning Against Worldliness

Introduction:

- The real problem of worldliness is all in our minds!
- **Romans 12:1-2** is key—don't let the world squeeze us into its mold but be radically transformed by the renewing of our minds.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service [act of worship]. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Warning Against Worldliness

Body of Lesson:

James is warning about 3 evidences of worldliness in our text. Each has a corresponding root problem and spiritual solution to that problem. We'll also look at an example of each problem in DRC and give a practical application to us at MBC.

(see handout with outline)

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1. *First Evidence Warned About: Enmity of Brothers (4:1-3)*

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James 4:1-3 (NKJV)

4 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

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James is warning about 3 evidences of worldliness in our text. Each has a corresponding root problem and spiritual solution to that problem. We'll also look at an example of each problem in DRC and give a practical application to us at MBC.

1. First Evidence Warned About: Enmity of Brothers (4:1-3)

- a. **Problem: wars and fights.** Note: this is linked and contrasted to peace (“shalom”); also this is written to Christians (3:1, 4:11)!
- b. **Solution: recognize root problem is desire for pleasures (v.1,3).**
We get “hedonistic pleasure” from the same root.
 - i. All desire is not bad.
 - ii. Realize that Satan takes what is normal and twists it into something perverted.
 - iii. Used here in a negative sense—self indulgence or seeking sensual pleasures.

Warning Against Worldliness

There are 3 evidences of worldliness in our text today.

1. First Evidence Warned About: Enmity of Brothers (4:1-3)

- a. **Problem: wars and fights.** Note: this is written to Christians!
- b. **Solution: recognize root problem is desires for pleasures (v.1,3).**
- c. **Example from DRC: tribalism**
 - i. Millions killed in past 2 decades of war between Tutsis and Hutus, etc.
 - ii. Crisis being exploited now by Muslim extremists to get a political foothold.
 - iii. Those in power indulge in all sorts of personal pleasure to their hearts desire.
 - iv. Even those in church leadership positions are not immune! Positive example of Yosia & Marata Butso!

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Yosia & Marata Butso, Nyankunde

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- b. **Solution: recognize root problem is desires for pleasures (v.1,3).**
- c. **Example from DRC: tribalism**
- d. **Practical application: prayer essential**
 - i. Thoughts → actions (lust, murder, covet) → broken fellowship and no prayer!
 - ii. Reverse process. Start with prayer, minds occupied with God → love, unity!

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There are 3 evidences of worldliness warned about in our text.

1. First Evidence Warned About: Enmity of Brothers (4:1-3)
2. Second Evidence Warned About: Erosion of Morals (4:4-5)

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James 4:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ 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. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

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There are 3 evidences of worldliness warned about in our text.

1. First Evidence Warned About: Enmity of Brothers (4:1-3)
2. Second Evidence Warned About: Erosion of Morals (4:4-5)
 - a. **Problem: unfaithfulness.** We are called “adulterers/adulteresses”!
 - i. Erosion of morals is a slow, insidious process.
 - ii. Truth, biblical definitions of marriage, and laws are being changed.

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2. **Second Evidence Warned About: Erosion of Morals (4:4-5)**
 - a. **Problem: unfaithfulness.** We are called “adulterers/adulteresses”!
 - i. Erosion of morals is a slow, insidious process.
 - ii. Truth, biblical definitions of marriage, and laws are being changed.
 - iii. A real problem for true followers of Christ who are part of the “bride of Christ”.
 - iv. To flirt with the world and seek to be accepted by it make us God’s enemy!
 - b. **Solution: make right choices.** We need to be vigilant. Our enemy is always looking for opportunities to trip us up and accuse us! He wants to spoil our intimate relationship with our heavenly bride.
 - c. **Example from DRC: AIDS & corruption.** AIDS is not a homosexual problem in Africa; it is caused by marital infidelity, compounded by the rape of many innocent women and girls by soldiers and police, along with poverty and poor health conditions.

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 - a. Problem: unfaithfulness.
 - b. Solution: make right choices.
 - c. Example from DRC: AIDS & corruption.
 - d. Practical application: Christians and the church play a huge role.
 - i. Teach the vital necessity of making the right choices. Education is critical.
 - ii. Learn how to handle the newest temptations to be just like the world.
 - iii. Cultivate a close personal relationship with a holy God living in us.
 - iv. Be fearful of hurting the Spirit who “yearns jealously” for our faithfulness to Him!
 - v. Support the activities of the church worldwide to minister as representatives of Christ to those hurting from the scourge of war, AIDS, poverty, and in desperate need of holistic health care—for the body, soul, and spirit!
 - vi. Corruption is rampant. The only way to stop it is to be radically transformed!

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James 4:6-10 (NKJV)

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

⁷ 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.

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2. Second Evidence Warned About: Erosion of Morals (4:4-5)
3. Third Evidence Warned About: Elevation of Self (4:6-10)
 - a. **Problem: pride.** One of the tools of Satan to get us to fall, just as he did (**Isa. 14:12-15**). Beware of his wiles (**2 Cor. 10:4-6**)!
 - b. **Solution: humility** (bookended in v.6,10). Three commands:
 - i. Submit to God. Put yourself under God's authority and obey His Word. Do not be like King Saul who thought he knew better than God (**1 Sam. 15:12-23**)!
 - ii. Resist the devil. Just say "No"! He will flee from us like Christ (**Matt. 4:10-11**). Turn temptation into a signal to pray against Satan. We are dead in Christ—reckon this to be true. Stop responding! (**Rom. 6:11-13; Col. 3:1-10**)
 - iii. Draw near to God—so He will be able to draw near to us. How is this done?

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3. Third Evidence Warned About: Elevation of Self (4:6-10)

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 - iii. Draw near to God—so He will be able to draw near to us. How is this done?
 - Clean hands—necessary if the Holy Spirit is to fill us and control us.
 - Pure hearts. "Make chaste" literally. Clean up your act! (**1 Pet. 1:22**)
 - Genuine remorse—lament, mourn and weep (like David, **Psa. 32; 51**).
- c. **Example from DRC: witchcraft.** When we refuse to accept God's authority in our lives, we leave ourselves wide open for Satan. Many have sold themselves to the devil for power, wealth, success. Rebellion is likened to the sin of witchcraft (**1 Sam. 15:23**).

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iii. Draw near to God—so He will be able to draw near to us. How is this done?

- Clean hands.

- Pure hearts.

- Genuine remorse.

c. **Example from DRC: witchcraft.** Unfortunately not just in DRC!

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Statue of Satan in Detroit Temple (dedicated July 26, 2015 in Secret Ceremony)

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- Clean hands.

- Pure hearts.

- Genuine remorse.

c. **Example from DRC: witchcraft.** Unfortunately not just in DRC!

d. **Practical application: actively model true humility**

Following true humility we find ourselves on our knees. We need to actively submit (put ourselves under) God's authority or those God has ordained to be our spiritual authorities (husbands, elders, government officials, etc.) to experience God's blessing. Resist the devil; cultivate a close relationship with God. Practice humility!

Update on Future Plans

- CHE Training of Trainers Seminar in Phoenix, AZ for Glenda and me (Oct. 19-23).

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- CHE Training of Trainers Seminar in Phoenix, AZ for Glenda and me (Oct. 19-23).
- CMMML Missionary Trip #2 to DRC alone 🙄 (Lord willing, scheduled Nov. 2-Dec. 4); possibly traveling with Pascal hoping to go to Goma.
- At the invitation of the church leadership, develop plans with church & medical leaders to improve the community health and development activities of the brethren assemblies (CE-39) in the DRC, and also to integrate the Hope Pharmacy Association activities (Paul will be coming from Kinshasa to join in all these strategic planning activities).
- Work with Katho, Mandro, Paul, Jean-Paul and other church and medical workers in Bunia and Goma to begin to carry out these plans.
- Follow-up previous Plesion research on new natural products in Bunia and Goma.
- **Pray!**