

CHAPTER 4

FROM whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will

draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

11. Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

CHAPTER 5

GO to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*.

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

6 Ye have condemned *and* killed the just; *and* he doth not resist you.

7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

12. But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth

by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 4 makes it clear that there were carnal divisions and disputes among the believers to whom James was writing. There was a lack of true separation in their lives, and the devil was having his way in the lives of many. As Christians, we should realize there are several enemies we must face. The flesh is the enemy we have with us continually. The word “lusts” does not necessarily mean sensual passions. It simply means desires. There are desires that are at work in the members of the body that will excite the flesh and create problems. The flesh is human nature apart from God. This is why Romans 6 exhorts us to yield the members of our bodies to the Spirit.

The world is another enemy we must face constantly. As Christians, we must not love the world. When we do love the world after becoming Christians, we are committing spiritual adultery. God says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.” When the believer becomes a friend to the world, he becomes at enmity with God. He grieves the Spirit within. It is sad the way many Christians live in and for the world. The devil is the greatest influence and enemy we must fight today. When a Christian lives for the world and the flesh, he becomes proud and this is where the devil goes to work. Pride is one of his best tools. God wants to give us more grace; Satan wants to give us more pride. The Christian must use the Word to resist the devil. James 4:7,8a says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw

nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” There is no way of living the Christian life apart from a surrendered life to the Spirit of God. It is important that every Christian examine his heart and be sure he is not living for the flesh or the world, and that the devil is not controlling his words and deeds. Life is so brief that we cannot afford to waste even one day. Surrender today to the Lord completely and ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit, that you might be for Him what He would have you to be.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“A false balance is abomination to the Lord; but a just weight is his delight” (Proverbs 11:1).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 36 (found on page 5).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

*Latin carol, 14th century Translation by
John M. Neale, 1818-1866*

As this spritely carol reminds us, Christmas should be the most joyous season of the year for all true Christians. Our lives should be filled with gratitude to God for the immeasurable love shown to us in the gift of His Son. Out of joyous hearts we should be exuberant in “heart and soul and voice!” This ancient hymn uses frequent repetition to impress upon us that the birth of Christ won for us “endless bliss” by opening

the way to heaven and conquering our fear of death through His assurance of eternal life.

The festive spirit of Christmas, however, should not fade away as the holiday passes. The joy and peace that Christ brings to our lives should enable us to be continually rejoicing Christians, regardless of the circumstances. The blessings that came to us on Christmas morn have illuminated our lives forever!

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice” is an unusual combination of 14th century Latin phrases and vernacular German expressions. The original Latin text was titled “In Dulci Jubilo,” meaning “in sweet shouting.” Over the years German people added their own wording, making this a “macaronic carol”—one that combines two or more languages. The carol was later given a free rendering English translation by John M. Neale, the noted 19th century scholar and translator of ancient hymns. It first appeared in Neale’s Carols for Christmastide in 1853.

*Good Christian men, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
News! news!
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow,
and He is in the manger now:
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door,
and man is blessed evermore:
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;*

*now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain His everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

**MELDA MCKINLEY
TALISHA GREENWOOD**

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1807
THE FIRST EMBARGO ACT WAS PASSED.
1862
BILLY SUNDAY’S FATHER DIED.**

Billy Sunday’s father did not know that he had a great evangelist in the making. We do not know what our influence will be on the lives of others and what our influence can be upon the lives of our children. Let us pray for each of our children by name today. Thank God for them and for their health, and pray God’s blessings upon their lives. Pray that God will keep them clean and pure and in His perfect will for their lives.

**1899
DWIGHT L. MOODY DIED.**

Moody was a seventeen-year-old lad working in a Boston shoe store. A Mr. Kimball was his Sunday school teacher. Burdened for the soul of his Sunday school pupil, he timidly came to the shoe store and witnessed to Dwight Moody. Through this, Moody became a Christian.

It is said that one day while walking down Wall Street, Mr. Moody was so overcome with the Holy Spirit that he had to ask God to withhold His power until he could get alone. He found refuge in a room of a friend. From that day, he was never the same.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 36 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

C. THE ERROR THAT GOD IS TOO KIND TO DAMN ANYONE

() Psalms 9:17

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

() II Thessalonians 1:7

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

() II Thessalonians 1:8

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

() II Thessalonians 1:9

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

() Revelation 20:10

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.