

# **FAITH AND WORLDLINESS**

(09/13/2020; James 4:1-10; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

**Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in the midst of trials, causing believers to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, to reject worldly ways knowing that friendship with the world is enmity with God, and to trust that God will exalt them at the proper time!**

## **I. REASON FOR WORLDLINESS – (4:1-3)**

- A. Question Regarding Outward Behaviors – (v.1a)
- B. Explanation Regarding Inward Passions – (v.1b-3)
  - 1. You desire, but don't have – You murder!
  - 2. You covet, but don't obtain – You fight!
  - 3. You ask, but don't receive – Your wrong motives!

## **II. RESULT OF WORLDLINESS – (4:4-6a)**

- A. The Hostility of God – (v.4)
- B. The Jealousy of God – (v.5)
- C. The Grace of God – (v.6a)

## **III. RESPONSE TO WORLDLINESS – (4:6b-10)**

- A. Respond to Your God – (v.6b-8a)
- B. Repent of Your Sin – (v.8b-9)
  - 1. Cleanse Your Hands – You Sinners
  - 2. Purify Your Hearts – You Double-Minded
  - 3. Humble Your Attitude – You Arrogant
- C. Rejoice in Your Exaltation – (v.10)

# **A FAITH THAT WORKS**

(Summary of James; Summer 2020; Christ Proclamation Church; Steve Thiel)

## **Background of James (Who wrote it, when, where, and to whom?)**

The book appears to be written by James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21) sometime before the Jerusalem Council; written to Jewish believers dispersed from Jerusalem due to persecution (Acts 8:1-4, 11:19).

## **Occasion of James (What prompted James to write this letter?)**

The persecution and displacement of Jewish believers seems to have caused a host of problems including impartiality between rich and poor and general worldliness.

## **Purpose of James (What did James hope to accomplish?)**

The purpose of James' letter is to encourage believers to persevere in the midst of trials and to clarify that true faith doesn't just hear but practices the Word of God.

## **Theme of James (What is the letter about?)**

True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in midst of trials, persevering in actions, attitudes, speech and relationships, causing believers to not only hear the Word, but practice the Word, for their good and God's eternal glory!

## **Outline of James**

### **I. True Faith Understands Trials (1:1-27)**

- A. Divine Purpose of Trials (1:1-12)
- B. General Godliness in Trials (1:13-25)
  - 1. Not blaming God (1:13-18)
  - 2. But listening to God (1:19-25)
- C. Summary of Godliness in Trials (1:26-27)

### **II. True Faith Works in Trials (2:1-4:10)**

- A. Love Brethren Impartially (2:1-26)
  - 1. Sin of partiality (2:1-13)
  - 2. Righteousness of a faith that works (2:14-26)
- B. Bridle Tongue Consistently (3:1-18)
  - 1. Sin of evil speech (3:1-12)
  - 2. Righteousness of heavenly wisdom (3:13-18)
- C. Reject Worldliness Completely (4:1-10)
  - 1. Sin of worldliness (4:1-5)
  - 2. Righteousness of true humility (4:6-10)

### **III. True Faith Perseveres in Trials (4:11-5:20)**

- A. Practices of True Faith (4:11-5:12)
  - 1. Not speaking evil against one another (4:11-12)
  - 2. Not presuming on the future (4:13-17)
  - 3. Not oppressing one another (5:1-6)
  - 4. Not being impatient with one another (5:7-11)
  - 5. Not lying to one another (5:12)
- B. Priorities of True Faith (5:13-20)
  - 1. Pray fervently when suffering (5:13a)
  - 2. Sing praises when cheerful (5:13b)
  - 3. Call elders when spiritually sick (5:14-20)