

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Sept	Galatians 1:1-24	True Gospel
2) 09 Sept	Galatians 2:1-21	True Grace
3) 16 Sept	Galatians 3:1-22	True Life
4) 23 Sept	Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-7	True Heirs
5) 30 Sept	Galatians 4:8-31	True Freedom
6) 07 Oct	Galatians 5:1-26	True Fruit
7) 14 Oct	Galatians 6:1-18	True Compassion
8) 21 Oct	James 1:1-18	With Perseverance
9) 28 Oct	James 1:19-27	With Obedience
10) 04 Nov	James 2:1-26	With Works
11) 11 Nov	James 3:1-18	With Control
12) 18 Nov	James 4:1-17	With Submission
13) 25 Nov	James 5:1-20	With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- James 4 provides more proverbial statements from dealing with quarrels, resisting the Devil, submitting, judging, and how to be happy.

Passage	Comments
James 4:1	<p>God is a Jealous God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. Why do some get passionate about their issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there ever a good reason to raise a Red Flag and say, "Hey, we have a problem here!" Recall the sins of 5 of the 7 churches in Rev 2-3, such as being dead (Sardis); lacking love (Ephesus), holding to false teachings (Pergamum); tolerating immorality (Thyatira), and having wealth but no zeal (Laodicea). You wonder if some made a stand to challenge sin in the camp, and if they were rendered useless and possibly seen as a threat as Caleb and Joshua were Num 14:6-10 How do we differentiate between malcontents who voice a valid major problem or two, which should be addressed, from others who voice menial issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it take God's wisdom to figure things out? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Depends Do we fight the problem now or later or never? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe Do we ignore it and hope it or they go away? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Depends
4:2-3	<p>Ask with Right Motives to Receive Answered Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUT, does this mean we can pray for ANYTHING and God will give it? Are there any EXCEPTIONS? Does God heal Down Syndrome these days; or an amputated leg; Breast Cancer, or even a paper cut supernaturally and instantaneously these days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know Consider This. We must be like the men of Issachar who know how God is working in our age, so we will know what to do & even how to pray..... 1Chron 12:32 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus and His Apostles (including Judas) and others (e.g., Philip & Barnabas) healed anyone and everyone of anything and everything, anytime and every time, anywhere and everywhere they went BUT supernatural healings stopped even before the Apostles died off. This is evident of Paul unable to heal Timothy of his many stomach ailments (years earlier, Paul healed everyone on Malta); he left Trophimus sick in Miletum; and he also couldn't heal Epaphroditus. When Jesus said we can ask for ANYTHING and it will be given to us, it was stated "figuratively," that is from a Kingdom, not an earthly, perspective..... John 16:23-25 So, what can we pray for to receive positive answers from God? Tons of stuff. Anything & everything that is in the will of God. 1John 5:14-15
4:4-5	<p>God is a Jealous God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v4. James changed his tone from addressing them as "my brothers" to "you adulteresses"OUCH! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did he use the feminine form? Possibly to highlight the prostitution aspect of adultery – when payment is being sought → "What is in it for ME?" James is either trying to fix a severe problem of disunity in this church or he is trying to make a very big point with his politically incorrect name calling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either way, he has the reader's full attention

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REMEMBER – we are the bride of Christ. He owns us! If God does not have the #1 spot in our lives, then we are adulterers/adulteresses/cheaters/scoundrels v4b. "...whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUT, Jesus says we should "make friends for ourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness" (Luke 16:9)". How should we reconcile these 2 verses? Consider This. It takes wise discernment how to use worldly resources (e.g., radio, TV, Internet, stock market), for God's Kingdom without getting entangled.
4:6-7	<p>How Do We Resist the Devil?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v6. What does it mean to receive more grace during tough times? Does grace mean cash or happy times or what? Is grace a tangible or an intangible thing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Depends v7a. How does one submit to God? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider This. Every time we obey God's word, even in small things (obey speed limit), we are submitting to Him v7b. How do we resist the Devil? Is it saying some magic words in Jesus name? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider This. Every time we obey God's word, we are resisting the Devil – and he has no choice but to flee...
4:8-10	<p>We Must Make the First Move to Draw Near to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God has done everything possible to reconcile us through Christ's atonement. He won't force us to come to Him. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What more can God do? Isaiah 5:4 Now, it is up to us. It is our turn to move Zech 1:3 How do we draw near to God? Through obedience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1st form of obedience is humbly repent & confess Then we are "EXALTED" – BUT HOW? AND WHEN? v8b. Now, James calls his readers "sinners" and "double-minded." How do sinners cleanse their hands, and how do double-minded people purify their hearts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What principles or commands should they obey? v9. Be miserable and mourn and weep. What does this accomplish? Consider This. Sin is nothing to be happy about. We need to first mourn over our sins, repent of them, before we can be happy or joyful in the Lord.
4:11-12	<p>New topic – Don't Judge People Erroneously</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evil talk and a critical spirit kills – Turn it OFF When is it appropriate to judge people or situations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are times to judge righteously John 7:24 Example: Prodigal behavior is evident
4:13-16	<p>Always include God in your plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God has a way of adjusting our calendars We should always want to go with His flow
4:17	<p>Now that we know all this, shame on us if we don't do it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we sin if we exceed the speed limit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know Do we sin if we skip church to play golf on Sunday? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- OBEDIENCE to God's word is the key to submitting to Him, resisting the Devil, cleaning up dirty hands and impure hearts, living joyfully

NEXT WEEK: James 5. More proverbial sayings: Avoid the trappings of earthly wealth, be patient, do not complain, endure like Job, the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, do not swear, pray if you are suffering, confess your sins and pray to be healed, and turn sinners around.

