



Redeeming Notes

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August 1, 2004

Living Out A Faith That Works "Pursuing Pleasure & Pursuing God"

James 4:1-10

- vv. 1-3 speak of **hedonism**
- vv. 4-6 speak of **adultery**
- vv. 7-10 speak of **repentance**

Connection: **hedonism** is spiritual **adultery** and the remedy for it is **repentance**

I. Hedonism (vv. 1-3)

- v. 1a James is talking about **Christians**
- v. 1b "desire for pleasure" is the Greek word "**hedonon**"
- v. 1c "war in your members" is the Greek word for **soldier**
- v. 2a The world's troubles originate in the **human heart**

Why do we not have what we desire to have?

- **failure to pray** (v. 2b)
- **ask with wrong motives** (v. 3)

II. Adultery (vv. 4-6)

Question #1 (v. 4) the incompatibility of being lovers of **pleasure** and lovers of **God**

"world" means the **world system of evil**

Question #2 (v. 5) God will not tolerate such mixed **allegiance**

God is a **jealous** God

God has an exclusive **claim** to our undivided and undistracted **allegiance**

Where **sin** abounds, **grace** more abounds (v. 6)

III. Repentance (vv. 7-10)

Ten **commands**

- vv.7-8a an active **allegiance**
- vv. 8b a thorough-going **purification**
- v. 9 sorrow for **sin**

Humble yourselves is the essence of **repentance**

READING PLAN: *Meditate deeply on these connections from this week's teaching, asking yourself: 1) What does it say in general? 2) What is it directly saying to me? 3) How can I apply it in my life?*

Monday – James 4:1-10

Tuesday – Matthew 6:22-24

Wednesday – Matthew 5:3-10

Thursday – I Peter 2:9-12

Friday – Luke 8:11-15

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- 1) Is it too simplistic to say that the troubles in the world stem from the human heart? Why or why not?
- 2) When we ask God for things, why do we often not get what we want?
- 3) Why is friendship with the world equivalent to hatred toward God?
- 4) God provides plenty of grace for us to overcome our envy, craving for pleasure, and consequent quarreling. He offers abundant grace to respond to Him with full devotion. Why does He give us this grace only if we are humble, never if we are proud?