

## James 4

vs 1-3 Philo points out that the Ten Commandments culminate in the forbidding of covetousness or desire, for desire is the worst of all the passions of the soul. "Is it not because of this passion that relations are broken, and this natural goodwill changed into desperate enmity? that great and populous countries are desolated by domestic dissensions? and land and sea filled with ever new disasters by naval battles and land campaigns? For the wars famous in tragedy...have all flowed from one source--desire either for money or glory or pleasure. Over these things the human race goes mad." Lucian writes, "All the evils which come upon man--revolutions and wars, stratagems and slaughters--spring from desire. All these things have as their fountain-head the desire for more." Plato writes, "The sole cause of wars and revolutions and battles is nothing other than the body and its desires." Cicero writes, "It is insatiable desires which overturn not only individual men, but whole families, and which even bring down the state. From desires there spring hatred, schisms, discords, sedition and wars." Desire is at the root of all the evils which ruin life and divide men. What do you desire? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you think the above ancients were exaggerating? \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 8:14 Titus 3:3

vs 4-7 Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:20 Here is the idea of Israel wed to God carried over to the church. 1John 2:15-17 You can't have it both ways. You love the world or you love God. Matthew 6:24

It is not that the world itself is evil, as God declared it good at creation. It is that we become fixated upon our desires for the world. 2 Timothy 4:10 What would you speculate that Demas left the work for? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you see any connection between Jesus in the Temple and vs 5? \_\_\_\_\_  
The word in Greek for jealous is *zelos* which implies a burning heat. God loves us that intensely. Our word for jealousy implies a kind of selfishness which isn't applicable. How does verse 6 fit in here? What has pride to do with love of the world?

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Verse 7 is a great promise to memorize. It is given in a sequential order. If you submit yourself to God first, then resist the Devil, this verse says he will flee. How did Jesus show us to resist the Devil? Matthew 4 \_\_\_\_\_

vs 8-10 To cleanse the hands means to purify your actions. Next it follows that the heart also must be cleansed or the hands will again be dirty. Double minded: Jesus is great but I want to have fun too. 'Afflicted' was a word used for an army that was out of food and had no shelter from the storm. 'Mourn and weep' is a description of the beginning of the Christian life with regret for sin and a revelation of the love of God, and the lack of our response to it. Here is another promise. If you humble yourself, He will exalt you. You do not have to worry about acceptance or accomplishment, just concentrate on walking humbly with God and He will take care of it.

vs 11-12 Ps 101:5 Mark 7:21-23 Jesus said slander comes out of an evil heart. 2Co 12:20 Paul feared finding a this in the church. Ephesians 4:31, Colosians 3:8 Paul says to get rid

of it! Titus 3:1,2 Peter agrees 1Peter 2:1 Speaks against the Law: Love your neighbor as yourself.

vs 13-17 Proverbs 27:1 Luke 12:16-21 The Jew had many plans for profit by moving into a new city and establishing a business. It was quite common to boast of plans to become wealthy. James was teaching that life is in the hands of Providence. We are not our own master. We are to seek out God's will and trust him for the out come. The last verse adds a punch to his directive by adding that if you know to do good (leave your future and direction in God's hands) and don't, it is sin. Certainly there is nothing wrong with plans and increasing wealth, however we must keep in mind who is the Master and how temporal life is.