

Warning Against Worldliness

November 5, 2023

11 *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?*

2 *You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.*

3 *You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

4 *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

5 *Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?*

6 *But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "**God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.**"*

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

8 *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

9 *Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

10 *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

11 *not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.*

12 *There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? James 4:1-12*

1) The problems among come from within us.

"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?"

"...they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature." Luke 8:14

- Unfulfilled desires.

"You desire and do not have, so you murder."

*You covet and cannot obtain, **so** you fight and quarrel.*

- Unasked prayers.

"You do not have, because you do not ask."

- Underlying motives.

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

"If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." Psalm 66:18

- Committing Spiritual Adultery.

"You adulterous people!"

"For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name." Isaiah 54:5

"An evil and adulterous generation." Matthew 12:39

"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

"The mind set on the flesh is hostile to God." Romans 8:7

"Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me." 2 Timothy 4:10

2) The promises to us come from God and not us.

"Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?"

"...For I the LORD your God am a jealous God." Exodus 20:5

"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Romans 8:16

"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.""

"Toward scorers He is scornful but to the humble He gives favor." Proverbs 3:34

3) We must act for the answer.

- Submit to God.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God."

"God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him." Hudson Taylor

- Resist the devil.

"resist the devil and he will flee from us."

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

- Draw near to God.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- Cleanse your hands.

"Cleanse your hands, you sinners."

"Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

- Purify your hearts.

... purify your hearts, you double-minded.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51

- Embrace brokenness.

"Be wretched and mourn and weep."

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you." James 5:1

"Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep." Luke 6:25

- Humble yourself.

"Humble yourselves before the Lord..."

"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." Isaiah 66:2

- Refuse to judge others.

"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law..."

- Let God be the judge.

"But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge..."