

# *James Chapter Four*

## *Study Hand Out*

### **Submit Yourselves to God**

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>4</sup> You adulterous people,<sup>[a]</sup> don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us<sup>[b]</sup>? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.<sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

<sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister<sup>[d]</sup> or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and

Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

## **Boasting About Tomorrow**

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

**James 4:1-17 (ESV)**

## **Practical Study Time**

4:1-17 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

1. List all the sins the brothers and sisters were committing as a result of their desires for material things:
2. What does James mean by “friendship with the world” statement? (vs. 4).
3. How do verses 5-6 tie into the topic of materialism?

4. How do you personally resist evil and submit to God? How did Jesus resist the Devil in Matthew 4:1-11?
5. List the things we are to do to avoid worldliness and materialism:
6. How is speaking evil of one another is judging another (vs. 11).
7. Explain the statement, “But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.” How does it fit in with verse 12?

**“Let Scripture interpret Scripture”**: “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.” (Titus 3:3)

4:13-17 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How can we practically apply verses 13-17 to our lives?
2. How can talking about one’s plans, as spoken about in this text, be considered “boasting?”

3. What does verse 17 have to do with this context?

**“Let Scripture interpret Scripture”**: “....For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Romans 1:20-21)