

## Lesson Nine — James Chapter Four, Part II: Do Not Judge

*Day One — Do Not Speak Wrongly*  
*Day Two — Do Not Judge One Another*  
*Day Three — The Time Will Come*  
*Day Four — Practical Things*  
*Day Five — Review*

Last week we studied the first half of James chapter four. We studied the reprimands and commands, which James gives to the scattered tribes of Israel. James warns them about being a friend with the world, which makes them an enemy of God, and tells them that God jealously desires to be the preeminent One in their life. In fact, James mentions that God gives a greater grace to those who are humble, and is opposed to those who are proud. Finally, we looked at the commands *submit, resist, draw near; cleanse and purify; be miserable, mourn and weep; be humble*. The result will be that God will exalt a person who does these things. And that is something to think about!

### Day One — Do Not Speak Wrongly

Be sure to pray for your study time this week.

We have been working in James chapter four. As we begin the second half of this chapter, we will need to begin within the context. Therefore, will you do two things? First, read through the entire chapter from your observation sheet. It is a fairly short day of study, so please take the time to do this. Then, take a moment to skim last week's study. Do that now.

OK. Now let's observe the second half of James chapter four.

#### **James 4**

**11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.**

Why are you not to speak against your brother?

Here, James deals with the tongue again! What an important issue in our daily lives. Below are some cross-references on the tongue. If anything strikes you about these verses, make a note of it in the margins.

**Psalms 140**

**11 “May a slanderer not be established in the earth; May evil hunt the violent man speedily.”**

**Ephesians 4**

**31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.**

**1 Timothy 3**

**11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.**

**Titus 2**

**3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good...**

**1 Peter 2**

**1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander...**

All in all, what do you think we are to do with our tongue?

Tomorrow we will deal with judging each other.

## Day Two — Do Not Judge One Another

Yesterday we looked at *speaking against the brothers*.

**James 4**

**11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.**

This verse also touches on our judging our brothers. Today we will deal with what other passages say about *judging brothers*. Again, make any notes you desire in the margins.

**Matthew 7**

**1 “Do not judge lest you be judged. 2 For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.**

**Luke 6**

**37 “And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.**

**Romans 2**

**1 Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.**

These previous three passages basically say the same thing. Re-word the message here.

We are to practice holiness. Read at how Peter says we should govern our lives:

**I Peter 1**

**15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”**

Part of practicing holiness would be to practice watching our tongue, *as well as* not listening to others when they begin to say things about others to you that you do not need to hear. In gentleness, stop them before you are both defiled from this sin. And afford them to right to do the same thing with you. Will you do that?

We have just a few more verses on passing judgment before we end our study for the day. In the following passage, the first verse is not speaking of someone who is *weak with sin*. It is speaking about someone who is *weak in faith*. This passage describes what it means to be weak in faith.

**Romans 14**

**1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand...**

**10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, “AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.” 12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

NOTES:

Who would regard whom with contempt?

And who would judge whom?

According to this passage in Romans chapter fourteen, in the end, what must we know about these matters (v.12)?

**I Corinthians 4**

**15 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.**

NOTES:

James continues v. 11 with the following statement:

**James 4**

**12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?**

All in all, what do you think about passing judgment on others in the Body of Christ?

See you tomorrow.

## Day Three — The Time Will Come

Let's begin today's study by thinking about and trying to answer a question: As a Christian, why we are to study God's Word?

Some would say that we are to study God's Word so that we can live *righteous lives*. Quite right! But do you know that if you are living righteously, you will be persecuted?

Today we are going to take a short break from the Book of James and study through a passage that the Apostle Paul wrote to his disciple, Timothy, in his last recorded letter.

Apparently, Paul's commitment to the Word caused many believers (even believers whom he had discipled for a three-year period in Asia) to turn away from him, so much so that by the end of his life, he describes to Timothy that everyone in Asia had left him, save the Lord Himself (II Tim. 1:15).

Earlier in his ministry, Paul had been concerned that he would keep his body under the control of the spirit so that he himself might not be rejected from his goal (I Cor. 9:26-27). When all was said and done, Paul knew he had finished his course. He also knew of the crown that awaited him (II Tim. 4:7-8).

In this section of II Timothy, Paul tells Timothy what is going to happen to godly people; what they should do; why they are to continue studying; and what will be their end.

Spend all of your study time today working through this section of II Timothy. It is double-spaced for your observation marks.

**II Timothy 3:12-4:8**

**12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

Before we continue in the passage, let's consider what we have just read:

Who does Paul say will be persecuted?

Who will be doing the persecuting?

In the midst of persecution, what did Paul tell Timothy to do?

What is the purpose of Scripture in the life of one who desires to live a godly life?

Now let's continue —

**1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ  
Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing  
and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of  
season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.**

One the heels of what Paul said to Timothy in chapter three, he gives Timothy a charge. What is the charge?

What is the basis for this charge? In other words, why does Paul give him this charge?

Continuing —

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but  
wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves  
teachers in accordance to their own desires; 4 and will turn away their  
ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.**

In this passage, how does Paul describe the scene in Christendom?

And now Paul admonished Timothy —

**5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

What would be Paul's outcome for his life of ministry?

What will be the outcome for anyone who lives godly, even in the face of persecution?

Think on these things today, as you go about your way.

## Day Four — Practical Things

Back to James, today!

It may appear that James switches gears, so to speak, here in the middle of chapter four. But does he really switch gears?

He had been writing about speaking against and judging other brothers. Now he deals with their personal and daily lives with a view to the coming age. And isn't that what Scripture does? Scripture becomes practical and personal, revealing how we are to live our life with a view to the coming age?

With that in mind, we will pick up where we left off two days ago.

### James 4

**13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such**

**boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.**

Rephrase this passage in today's vernacular.

King Solomon wrote of the futility of a life lived with only the present in mind. Who better to know the folly of futile works of the hands of man than Solomon — King over the greatest kingdom ever on earth thus far? King Solomon had wisdom and riches greater than anyone in history, yet at the end of his life, he found that so much of what he spent his time and energy on was futile. Strong regret characterizes his opening words. How sad!

**Ecclesiastes 1** (King Solomon calls himself Preacher)

**1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” 3 What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun?**

It would be great if you had enough time to completely read the book of Ecclesiastes today. (Please feel free to do so, if you have the time.) But for those who do not have the time, you may read the selected passages below. Ecclesiastes gives the perspective of a futile life from the pen of experience. The Book of Ecclesiastes could serve as a word picture of what James is saying in 4:13-17.

**Ecclesiastes 2**

**1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.” And behold, it too was futility. 2 I said of laughter, “It is madness,” and of pleasure, “What does it accomplish?” 3 I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. 4 I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; 5 I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; 6 I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. 8 Also, I collected for myself silver and gold, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men — many concubines. 9 Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. 10 And all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.**

**11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.**

What is the essence of Solomon's words?



Solomon's very last written words in Ecclesiastes are printed below. The Preacher comes to the end of his life and realizes something that should have governed his entire life. This perspective should govern everyone's life — the sooner, the better. Read what he says:

**Ecclesiastes 12**

**10 The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly. 11 The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body. 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.**

What do you think Solomon meant in these last few sentences?

Go back and reread today's passage in James at the beginning of today's lesson. How can you apply this to yourself?

Describe the sin mentioned in v. 17. What would that be in a practical sense?

**Proverbs 19**

**21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD, it will stand.**

## Day Five — Review

Today we will recap James chapter four by reading once again the chapter using your observation sheets. Make any notes on what strikes you today, which you may have missed in prior readings.

## Week's End Summary:

Understanding James —  
To the Saving of the Soul

Lesson Nine  
James Chapter Four, Part II:  
Do Not Judge