

*The Letter to the
12 Tribes*

James

Jas. 4:13-17



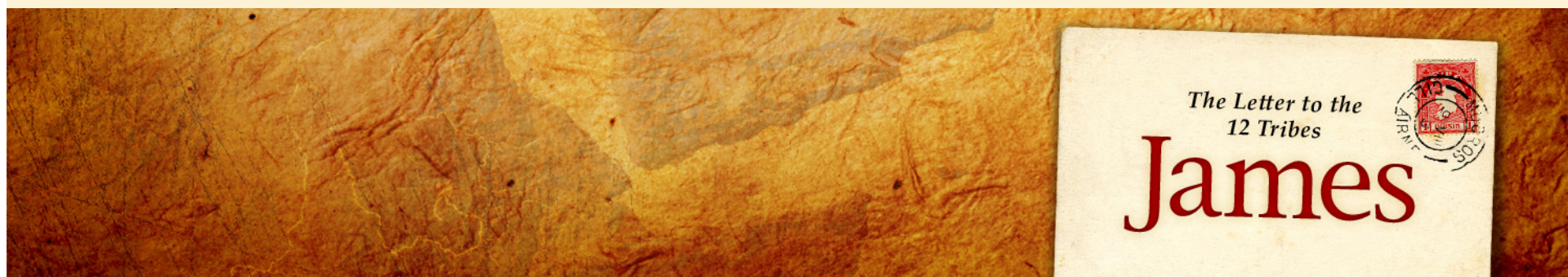
Jas. 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

15 For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.



INTRODUCTION, 1:1

I. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BATTLES, 1:2-16

A. The Testings of the Christian Life, 1:2-12

B. The Temptations of the Christian life, 1:13-16

II. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BIBLE, 1:17-27

A. God's Word is Likened to a Gift, 1:17-18

B. God's Word is Likened to a Graft, 1:19-22

C. God's Word is Likened to a Glass, 1:23-27

III. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BRETHREN, 2:1-13

A. Partiality: a sin against the Lord, 2:1-7

B. Partiality: a sin against the law, 2:8-13

IV. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BELIEFS, 2:14-26

A. The approach, 2:14

B. The appraisal, 2:15-18

C. The application, 2:19-20

D. The appeal, 2:21-26



V. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BEHAVIOR, 3:1-4:12

A. Sin in the life revealed, 3:1-4:5

B. Sin in the life resisted, 4:6-10

1. The call to submit, 4:6-7

a. The secret of spiritual virtue, 4:6

b. The secret of spiritual victory, 4:7

2. The call to commit, 4:8-10

a. A word about coming, 4:8a

b. A word about cleansing, 4:8b

c. A word about crying, 4:9

d. A word about contrition, 4:10

C. Sin in the life repudiated, 4:11-12

1. The command, 4:11

a. The command expressed, 4:11a

b. The command explained, 4:11b-c

i. What is involved, 4:11b

ii. What is inferred, 4:11c

2. The comment, 4:12

VI. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BOASTING, 4:13-5:6

A. Boasting about our plans, 4:13-17

1. The proposal, 4:13

Jas. 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

2. The problem, 4:14

a. Our hidden future, 4:14a “Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow...”

Psa. 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: **God is not in all his thoughts.**

JAMES

Prov. 27:1 **Boast not thyself** of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Lu. 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.
19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry.
20 But **God said unto him, Thou fool**, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**



b. Our human frailty, 4:14b "...For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

The grand illusion of life is that an eternal soul will maintain a temporal existence infinitum. The reality of life is the temporality of it.

Job 7:6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

Job 8:9 (For we *are but of* yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth *are* a shadow:)

Job 9:26 They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle *that* hasteth to the prey.



James

Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Jas. 4:14b “...For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

The Entrance – “...life...a vapour...that appeareth...” = we have a nebulous entity that has a beginning.

The Existence – “...for a little time...” = in the grand scheme of things, we have a temporal, chronological period of existence, bounded by the infinity of eternity.

The Expiration – “...then vanisheth away.” = the temporal existence of insignificance fades into the nothingness of history.

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, **do all to the glory of God.**

3. The proposition, 4:15

Jas. 4:15 For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Acts 18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, **if God will**. And he sailed from Ephesus.

1 Cor. 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, **if the Lord will**, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

1 Cor. 16:7 For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, **if the Lord permit**.



4. The prohibition, 4:16

Jas. 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

In these verses, James presented four arguments that show the foolishness of ignoring God's will:

- the complexity of life (v. 13)
- the uncertainty of life (v. 14a)
- the brevity of life (v. 14b)
- the frailty of man (v. 16).

5. The principle, 4:17

Jas. 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

Conclusion

Jas. 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Jas. 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Jas. 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Jas. 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

