

SIN OF DEFAMING

JAMES 4:11-12

- Others- v11a
- The Law- v11b
- The Lawgiver- 12



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

James 4:13-17

- The Folly of Ignoring God's Will-v13ff
- The Arrogance of Denying God's Will- v16
- The Sin of Disobeying God's Will- v17
- The Blessing of Obeying God's Will- v15



- Not an admonition against Planning
- But against leaving God out of our planning



GODLY PLANNING TODAY

- Job
- Finances
- School
- Marriage/Family
- Vacation
- Retirement



CHRISTIAN ACCOUNTABILITY and RESPONSIBILITY

James 4:17

- Is there ever an occasion where it is alright to not do a good work?
- In context James seems to still be talking about vs 13-16.
- **IT IS WRONG TO LEAVE GOD OUT OF YOUR PLANNING**



JAMES 5

- Improper emphasis on Wealth
- Like Mt 6:19ff
- Forms of Wealth
 - Stored Food-----Rot
 - Clothing-----Moth
 - Precious Metals---Rust



- “It has always seemed strange to me... the things we admire the most in men, kindness, generosity, openness, understanding and feelings are the concomitants of failure in our system. And those traits we detest, sharpness, greed, acquisitiveness, meanness, and egotism are the concomitants of success. And while men admire the quality of the first, they love the produce of the second” John Steinbeck



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEALTHY- VS 5-6

- Lived Luxuriously
- Wanton Pleasure
- Fattened Hearts
- Condemners of the Just



THE PROPER RESPONSE

Patience- vs 7 Christ is coming again.

Farmer-vs7

Prophets- vs 10

Job- vs11



TONGUE AGAIN- VS 12

- Do not take flippant oaths
- Probably not referring to Judicial Oaths
- “yea yea” and “nay nay”---stick to your word and have no trickery in your oaths.



JAMES 5:13-18

- Difficult Interpretation: But what do we Know for Sure
- Prayer, Fellowship and Confession are all keys to our Well Being



DIFFICULTIES

- Meaning of “elders”
 - Office or Age
- Meaning of “anointing with oil”
 - Ceremonial or Medicinal
- Meaning of “sick”
 - Physical or Spiritual



ISSUES

- If physical, would males administer oil to the bodies of women?
- If elder is the office, what about “no elder” congregations?
- If physical, is this confirmation that sin causes illness?
- Fortunately it was undoubted clear to them.



MOST LIKELY

- Physical Illness
- Oil was primarily medicinal
- Psychological aspects (Faith) plays a role in healing
- James transitions in vs 16 to the Spiritual Element
- EITHER WAY THIS IS ABOUT PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP AND CONFESSION.
- Maybe it's left ambiguous on purpose to leave us with both lessons.



AURICULAR CONFESSION



- Verse 20 is an appropriate closing to the book, as it articulates James' whole purpose for the book.

