

## James 4.1-3 A World at War

### A World at War Within, v. 1

- I. What is causing the disturbance of peace?
  - A. The war begins in the flesh that wars against the Spirit (Gal. 5.17-21).
    - 1. This is found in every Christian. There is a war within our members (Rom. 7.23).
      - a) But what for? It is from a desire for pleasure; the pleasure-seeking life. It is believing that man's chief end is man.

### A World Brought to Nothing, v. 2a

- I. And what is the outcome of a pleasure-seeking life? It is violence. Sinful desires have sinful outcomes and the flesh loves it!
  - A. "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer (1 John 3.15)."
    - 1. This is a sixth and ninth commandment violation. They are zealous to possess and what is the outcome? **Nothing**. This is a stern warning for us today.
      - a) Ironically our Head is called the Prince of Peace. Yet, how often is there a war within us that desires personal gain and we will take that war into the church?

### A World Gone Wrong, v. 2b-3

- I. They desired to lead, to teach, to gain riches, but they lacked what they needed, which was heavenly wisdom that produces peace. All we need to do is ask (Matt. 7.7-8).
  - A. It's a reminder of King Solomon and the Prodigal Son. We are his weekly prodigal children. When our desire for seeking pleasure takes over our lives, our dependence upon God our Father suffers and our prayer life suffers. We stop asking God for anything. Yet, we will never be satisfied. 1 John 5.14.
    - 1. Pleasure is not the problem. God gave us all things to enjoy but within their proper context according to his will (i.e. sex within the context of marriage; all things good in moderation). But when it begins to govern our lives, our desires set up idols

for us to worship. We begin to love the gifts more than the Giver. We waste what he has given us on our passions.

- a) This is when our sinful flesh drives all of our decision making without the restraint of the Holy Spirit. We were created to enjoy pleasure and to have desires and passions. But our desires become sin when we desire and fulfill those desires in a manner, which God has forbidden.

## II. Application. How unlike God we truly are?

- A. He has all things to give us at his disposal. All we need to do is ask in prayer. But the focus and motive of our prayer ought to be for God's name, God's will and God's kingdom, before we ask for our needs. The chief end of man is to glorify God and **enjoy him** forever.
- B. Consider Jesus Christ and consider his own passion as a man. His zeal and desires were to fulfill his Father's will, even when he desired to continue living and not endure the cross (Matt. 26.42). This was the passion of our Paschal Lamb.
  - 1. Where is our passion and zeal? What drives us? What motivates us? To whom shall we yield to? The flesh or the Spirit? One must win the war (Rom. 6.19, 8.13; Titus 3.3-4).
  - 2. What are we fighting for? What don't we already possess in Christ? Money? Status? Power? Control?
  - 3. Are we content with what we already have? If we are in need, we ought to ask God. Do we ask for wisdom to handle what he will or will not give us?
  - 4. Again, where is our zeal? To glorify God and enjoy him forever? For in him is all the pleasure that we need (Ps. 16.11; Ps. 37.4). Amen.