

James 5:1-6

February 12, 2017
Paul DeHart
Arbor Church

Review

- Consider Trials a Joy – endured they bring perfection/completion (1:1-4)
- If you lack wisdom ask God in Faith (1:5-8)
- Glory in Humility (1:9-11)
- Persevere Trials/Temptation, cultivating implanted Word into Fruit (1:12-18)
- Grow in Word by *doing* it, marked by (1:19-27):
 - Care Others (2:1-13) – Not faith + negative action
 - Faith & Works (2:14-26) – Not faith & no action
 - Controlled Tongue (3:1-12)
 - Life of Holiness (3:13-5:6)

Review

- Grow in Word by *doing* it, marked by (1:19-27):
 - Care Others (2:1-13) – Not faith + negative action
 - Faith & Works (2:14-26) – Not faith & no action
 - Controlled Tongue (3:1-12)
 - Life of Holiness (3:13-5:6)
 - The need for Wisdom from Above demonstrated by broken relationships (3:13-18)
 - Indwelling Sin and Adultery with World affects relationship with God; therefore Humble yourselves before God (4:1-10)
 - Areas we may need humbling in: Placing ourselves above the law and judging others, presuming we are in full control of our life, and presuming it's our call what is right (4:11-17)

James 5:1-6 – Context: Humility

- 5:1-6 Continues with an area where we need humility
- What is Humility?
- Looking at Humility in James, what could we add?
 - 1:9 “the brother of *humble* circumstances is to glory in his high position”
 - 1:21 “in *humility* receive the word implanted which is able to save your souls”
 - 3:13 “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness [*humility*] of wisdom.”
 - 4:6 “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the *humble*”
 - 4:10 “*Humble* yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you”

James 5:1 – Who and What...

- Who is James addressing in v. 1?
- Is this to Believers or Unbelievers?
- What are they told to do & what does this mean?
 - James 4:8-10

James 5:2-3 – Miseries

- What is happening to the Rich's Wealth?
- Why is this happening?
 - Hoarding!
 - Matthew 25:24-30 – Parable of the Talents; what happened to the servant who buried his talent?
- What's the problem with Hoarding?
 - Luke 12:33-34

James 5:4 – Impact of Hoarding

- v. 4a How does Hoarding affect others?
- How does this come back on the Hoarder?
- What is Sabaoth & what does it mean?
 - Isaiah 5:1-7 – God’s vineyard: He cultivated it and loved it, but it did not produce. v. 7 “For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel...”
 - Isaiah 5:8-12 -- “Lord of Hosts has sworn...” destruction on those who are living for themselves instead of God
 - Isaiah 5:15-17 -- “man of importance abased... but the Lord of hosts will be exalted in judgment... then the lambs will graze as in their pasture”

James 5:5-6 – State of Hoarding

- How does the Hoarder live?
- Where is his Focus?
- Where is this leading him?

- How has he “condemned and put to death the righteous man”?

Summary

- James calls for Humility & we fall short:
 - Placing ourselves above the law and judging others
 - Presuming we are in full control of our life
 - Presuming it's our call what is right
 - Relying on our Riches instead of God
- When we are consumed with our Riches we:
 - Don't share them (as opposed to "true religion" of helping others)
 - Don't pay what is due (violate the law)
 - Fatten ourselves for slaughter
 - Don't think we need God (who actually has all we need)

Application – Questions

- Are we Rich or Wealthy? If not don't envy the Rich!
- Where does all our Wealth come from?
- What are we doing with our Wealth?
 - This may indicate what our Wealth is doing to Us...
- Are we so comfortable that we rely on our own resources more than God?
- Is the Pursuit or Control of our Wealth leading us to compromise our relationship with Christ?

Application – Biblical Perspective on Wealth

- Be content (do not live for the lie of materialism) & Trust God (not our wealth or resources):
 - Proverbs 30:8-9 – “Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.”
- Recognize what we do have is from God and use it good with an eternal perspective:
 - 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – “17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”