

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 18-19, 2000

"Friendship with the World"

Dale Whitehead

James 4:1-6

We can know if we have become a friend of the world if our various relationships are characterized by turmoil (James 4:1).

Turmoil in our relationship with others (James 4:1)

Turmoil in our relationship with ourselves (James 4:2-3)

Turmoil in our relationship with the Lord (James 4:4-6)

Turmoil that professing believers experience with the Lord as they become contaminated by the world is seen in three different areas.

Hostility toward God (James 4:4)

Disregard for Scripture (James 4:5)

A proud spirit (James 4:6)

The word "proud" (HUPEREPHANOS) literally means "to appear (PHAINOMAI) above (HUPER)." When we choose to make ourselves a friend of the world we are not only betraying the Lord's love for us but we are telling the Lord we do not need Him and this is prideful.

Those professing believers who are prideful will not receive help from the Lord rather the Lord will oppose them.

The word "oppose" (ANTITOSSOMAI) was used as a military term depicting a full army ready for battle. God is in full battle array, as it were, against the proud.

We do not have to act hostile toward the Lord. We do not have to disregard the Scriptures. We do not have to continue to act prideful. Why? Because he gives a greater grace.

There is a grace available for you no matter what your personal situation might be.

He gives grace to overcome personal weaknesses.

He gives grace to overcome insurmountable obstacles.

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He gives grace to accomplish impossible tasks.

God has always given His grace to the humble (Isaiah 66:2).

The humble deeply conscious of their sinfulness and need, gladly acknowledge their dependence on God and rest in His all-sufficiency.