



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
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*Confidence
Corner
John F. Board*

Jesus Did Not Die On The Cross To Make It Possible For Members Of His Church To:

- * Sleep in on Sunday and miss Bible study and worship.
- * Stay at home when we have out of town guests.
- * Attend sporting or social event during the week and regularly neglect Bible study and worship.
- * Talk to people about politics and not about the value of their soul.
- * Wear themselves out working all day and be too tired to attend Sunday and Wednesday night services.
- * Pray with the church, but not by themselves in their home.
- * To shop, bank, and recreate when "sick" but not attend Bible class and worship.
- * Practically never miss work, even when ill; but allow a "small" headache or similar ailment to prevent attendance at Bible study and worship.
- * Read the paper or watch the news, but not open the Bible during the week.
- * Use the phone to talk to neighbors and family, but never use it to invite them to activities of the church or to share the gospel.
- * Lay aside money to spend on eating out, recreation and vacations; but throw left-overs into the collection plate on Sunday.

— Author Unknown

CANCELLED
Until further notice.....

Due to the health concerns that are occurring, the elders are making difficult decisions to uphold our Christian requirements while providing safety for our members. There will only be one service on Sunday. The time will be at 10:30 am. There will be no Sunday school classes or Sunday evening services.

For the Wednesday evening services, there will be no classes at the building. However, a Facebook streaming live lesson will be made available. Also, lessons will be emailed to members or be made available for pickup at the building.

Sunday's Sermon:

**A.M. — God Knows Me
Jeremiah 1:4-5**

James 4 addresses the subject of worldliness. In verses, 1-3 James addresses the cause of conflict—selfishness. In verses 4-6 James addresses the result of conflict—you become a friend of the world as well as an enemy of God. In verses, 7-10 James provides the remedy for conflict—humble yourself and submit to God. In verses 13-17, James continues his warning to those who possess a worldly mind in another area—an arrogant self-sufficient attitude of planning daily life without regard for God.

Before we dismiss this article as not applicable to ourselves and move on to something else in the bulletin, let us seriously consider some thoughts regarding James' message. Have we ever been guilty of expressing our need for God in public worship settings and then disregard God in the pursuits of daily life? Though James employs the illustration of people who sell and trade to illustrate his point, his rebuke is intended for all Christians who are guilty of self-willed independence of God as they go about their everyday lives.

Consider the serious nature of what James has to say. The original language in verse 13 has James saying, "Now listen." I could probably better convey the original with an exclamation point! "Listen" (*age*) is an imperative (command form) and is enhanced by the addition of the adverb "now" (*nun*). Though the expression is common in secular Greek writings, it is only used in Scripture in this place and in James 5:1. James the Lord's brother has something important to say—one commentator says James uses "the signal for an attack."

In verse 14 James conveys the absurdity of the position these people hold; though they are among a class of beings who do not know the future, they act as if they do. They held Proverbs 27:1 in total contempt. Their planning with total disregard for life was the root of worldliness.

But more important to our study, they also were living without the recognition of the uncertainty of human life. What is your life? James warns that they do not even know what will occur on the morrow. Some have noted that what is being conveyed by James through the Holy Spirit is an even stronger concept. The thought is even more that "they do not even know if there will be a tomorrow" for them, or anyone else.

The word "what" (*poia*) is used to call attention to the precarious nature of our lives. James enhances the application to the reader by saying "you are" (this calls attention by the reader to themselves for application). He continues to show just how our lives are like vapors—just as vapor is expected to appear and understood to remain visible for only a short time (think of a single drop of rain on a hot summer windshield). James reveals something that is "sure" to follow—that single drop of rain will disappear (Heb. 9:27). One way or another, our life here upon the earth will have a sure end; either death or the Lord's return will bring about the end to our life here upon the earth.

Truly as we might say in the English language, our **life appears** and then **disappears**. We are provided no guarantees. Death is no respecter of persons—it takes young and old alike. The question we need to ask ourselves is, "Are we living our lives with consideration of God and His will?" A sobering thought but one that could not be more important to consider in view of not this life, but eternity!

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