

FIRST BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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STUDYING THE SCRIPTURE
Tuesday, January 8, 2013
Instructor: Lehman D. Bates, Pastor

THEME

“DRAW NEAR TO GOD”

“Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. James 4:7-10

“Draw Near To God”

THESIS: When the full sense of the Sovereignty of God/Jehovah is achieved, there is a comprehensive, deep desire to draw nearer to God in soul, body and spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Man is made in the Image and Likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Man is a personal, rational and moral being. Although finite, man possesses the elements of personality like those of the Divine Person: thinking (Gen. 2:19-20; 3:8); feeling (Gen. 3:6); and willing (Gen. 3:6-7). These basics have been deceived by the Devil and man's Spiritual Sight blinded. Man does not recognize his need for Spiritual Fellowship with The One and Only True and Living God. Doubt, ignorance (Spiritual) and greed in their fullness have revealed themselves as the regular practice of people in and out of the visible church.

Somehow, there must be developed a consistent, genuine longing for the LORD GOD. This involves a hungering and thirsting for True Communion with Him (Lk. 19:1-10). Through various Spiritual Activities a closer walk with Him is accomplished. These activities can include, but not be limited to attending Worship Services, dedicated prayer time, reading, with meditation on The Scripture, using other edificational materials for maturing your understanding, attendance of Church Bible Study Sessions, or Advanced Educational Classes; etc. The longing for the LORD GOD should result in learning about Him and wanting to know more and more concerning Him. He invites each of us to come to Him and learn of Him (Mt. 11:29; Dt. 31:13; Prov. 1:5; John. 6:44-45). This longing for the LORD GOD that results in learning about Him, will proceed to a Life Lived for Him and with Him (Mt. 16:24).

BODY

At the time of the writing of this Epistle, Christians were going through severe trials and temptations. The purpose of the letter was to comfort and encourage them. However, there were some serious problems among believers. They was doctrinal confusion, which affected their Spiritual Practice.. Faith and works, and place and importance of each were hotly

debated. Why the trails, temptations and grave testing of their faith? Why so much ill-consideration, ill-natured, self-assertive and violent speech with angry debates and bitter strife? -2-

Faith is the foundation for drawing near to God. Faith is the foundation for proper fellowship with other believers and other people. Faith is visible in the believers works. Faith is revealed in the believers words. Faith will maintain the believers Life from worldliness. Faith is shown through the believers patience under oppression, and cruelty.

It has been said, “James is a book of holy living.” Under the Guidance of The Holy Spirit, he emphasizes the necessity to “resist the Devil,” with his doubts, deception and infectious disease of spiritual ignorance. Note, the believer is required to “Submit” to God before he attempts to “resist the devil.”

James than says, “Draw near to God, and He will drw near to you.”

A. Draw Near In Humility

- 1. Lowliness of Mind**
- 2. Loyalty of Manner**
- 3. Love of The Master**

B. Drw Near With Clean Hands

- 1. Self**
- 2. Sin(s)**
- 3. Senses**

C. Draw Near With Heart Pure

- 1. Inward Sphere**
- 2. Intentions**
- 3. Imaginations Influence**

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