

Sunday, August 31, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: A Matter of the Will

Series: James ... 9; Text: James 4:11 - 17

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to ACTIVELY seek and yield to the will of God.

Introduction:

Two weeks ago the devotional was from James 4:1 – 10 and was entitled 'Winning the War Within.'

1. Wars That Are External; 2. Wars Within; 3. Winning the War Within

~ Will, the ability to choose, is one of the key distinguishing points between human-kind and the animal kingdom. "This belief is rooted in the idea that humans are created in the image of God, implying a moral and rational capacity for decision-making. In contrast, animals are not depicted in the Bible as possessing the same level of moral and rational capacity."
~ Luke 22:42, *"saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.'"*

~ Proverbs 3:1 – 6 and 4:20 – 27

~ I am persuaded, from personal life experience, that as we yield to the will of God, a divine order is established in our life.

~ Warren W. Wiersbe: "That God would have a plan for each of our lives is an obvious truth. He is a God of WISDOM and knows what ought to happen and when it should occur. And, as a God of LOVE, He must desire the very best for His children. Too many Christians look on the will of God as bitter medicine they must take, instead of seeing it as the gracious evidence of the love of God."

1. I Will Guard My Tongue:

~ James 4:11 – 12

~ James 3:5 – 12

~ 3:5 – 6, *"And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness...and is set on fire of hell."*

~ 3:7 – 8, *"but no human being can tame the tongue."*

Cf. 3:3, *"If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us,"*

Cf. 3:4, *"Look at ships also...they are guided by a very small rudder"*

~ James 4:11 – 12 is not instruction forbidding the evaluation of situations. It is first instruction to get the beam of our own eye, not to slander or gossip or be a back-biter! (Matthew 7:3 – 5)

~ Be a peacemaker not a troublemaker! (Romans 16:17 – 18)

~ Gossip is talking to people who are NOT part of the problem or part of the solution.

~ James 4:12, I must always remember that there is only ONE lawgiver.

~ 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

2. I Will Commit My Plans to God:

~ James 4:13 – 14

~ Matthew 6:33, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

~ Psalm 27:4, *"One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple."*

~ James 4:14, *"yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring."*

~ John, life is more than your plans!!!

~ Remember, God is interested in your character and your trust/faith levels.

~ Proverbs 27:1, *"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."*

~ This does not mean don't plan, it means do not engrave it in stone!

~ James 4:14, *"For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."*

~ Psalm 90:12, *"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."*

~ Ephesians 5:16, *"making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."*

3. I Will Seek God's Will:

~ James 4:15, *"Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'"*

~ Luke 11:1 – 13, I will keep on asking, seeking and knocking to receive the Holy Spirit daily.

~ Matthew 11:28 – 30, I desire to be daily yoked to Christ Jesus.

~ Mark 11:9, I desire to have Christ Jesus as my reigning King.

~ John 11:38 – 44, Should I feel that a Word of God has died in my life, I trust His resurrection power.

4. I Will Humble Myself:

~ James 4:16, *"As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."*

~ James 4:6, *"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"*

~ 1 Peter 5:6, *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,"*

Conclusion:

James 4:17, *"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."*

Romans 14:23b, *"For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin."*