

Good Morning Belfield Baptist Church Family and Friends.
Sunday – October 04, 2020.

Our Verse for the day: Matthew 6:23 (KJV) ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Our devotion today as with each Sunday is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for October 4, 2020.

Draw Near to God

JAMES 4:8-10 *8

The Bible opens and closes with God and man enjoying perfect harmony and fellowship with each other.

Man began his existence in a garden with God.

The Bible closes in Revelation 22 with the redeemed in the city of God where the river of life flows, where the tree of life bears fruit.

LET US SEE WHAT LIVING CLOSE TO GOD MEANS TO JAMES.

1. LIVING CLOSE TO GOD BRINGS RICH REWARDS

A. The highest possible happiness — **“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore”** Psalm 16:11

1. Too many people do not know the happiness of God. To talk with Him, to walk with Him, and the list goes on.

2. Happiness is to love God and do His will, to see someone accept the Lord and change their way of life AND to let the Holy Spirit take over and see them grow in the love and knowledge of God.

3. Not in the worldly game.

B. The conquest of fear (Psalm 23:4) **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

The psalmist was encouraged in times of crisis by an awareness of the nearness of God. The comfort to which he refers is the courage that one needs for the living of life under difficult circumstances.

The courage to go into an operation with less than a 50-50 chance of coming out, knowing that God is on your side.

The courage to live daily for God and to live the life that would please Him.

2. LET US LOOK AT THOSE WHO WERE LIVING AT A DISTANCE FROM GOD.

A. They were living under the control of their passions and desire for pleasure: James 4:1-2(KJV) **From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ²Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.**

B. They were completely self-centered even when they prayed: James 4:3(KJV) **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

C. They were completely compatible with the world which is in rebellion against God. James 4:4(KJV) **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

D. They had grown proud and arrogant and were indifferent toward God: James 4:6(KJV). **But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

Just like the world is today. God will not accept the proud.

E. They were rebellious against God. James 4:7(KJV) Submit **yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

3. HOW TO LIVE CLOSE TO GOD:

A. We must believe that the living God loves us and is eager to bless us, with a supreme love.

B. We must believe that the Lord who conquered death draws near with purposes of love.

C. Confess and forsake all known sin in your life:

1 John 1:8-10 (KJV). **⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

D. Fully follow the known will of God for your life.

E. Respond positively to the inward leading of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

He is here today, wanting to come in and fellowship with us, will we let Him? (Rev.3:20) **Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

Will you let Him in this morning, tomorrow may be too late?

As we move through the COVID-19, let each one of us draw nearer to God today than we were yesterday and draw closer to God tomorrow than today.

Today, October 4, as you pray, pray for God's guidance in each day.