

SERMON NOTES FOR 10/11/2020

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 Saturday is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for October 11, 2020. This is the first weekend that I have moved the outline to Saturday Morning instead of Sunday Morning.

Man's Pleasures or God's Will

JAMES 4:1-8

James is setting before his people and us a basic question- - what is your aim in life, to submit to the will of God, or to gratify your own desires for the pleasures of this world?

His warning is that if pleasure is the policy of life, then nothing but strife, hatred, and division can follow.

It is very possible that James was thinking about what Joshua had to say and the results: Joshua 24:15: **AND IF IT SEEM EVIL UNTO YOU TO SERVE THE LORD, CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE: WHETHER THE GODS WHICH YOUR FATHERS SERVED THAT WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FLOOD, OR THE GODS OF THE AMORITES, IN WHOSE LAND YE DWELL; BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.**

What can we say about these other gods, the gods before the flood? — lust, eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, in other words they engaged in a big orgy.

The pagan gods of the Amorites - - - Foreign gods, gods of a different origin, dead gods.

The Bible is clear that this overmastering desire for the pleasures of this world is always a threatening danger to the spiritual life.

The things that are going on today, the movies, the televisions, music, the empty pews in the churches on Sunday Morning and Wednesday Nights, shows us that without a doubt we are living in the time that James is warning us about. Let us look at some passages in the Bible.

1. Luke 8:14: Deals with the seeds falling amount the thorns. It is the **cares and riches and pleasures** of this life which combines to choke the good seed out and thus cause death. NOTICE what it was that causes death to the good seed ...

This is not the only example that we have of overindulgence in the world.

2. In Titus 3:3-4, Paul says: **FOR WE OURSELVES ALSO WERE SOMETIMES FOOLISH, DISOBEDIENT, DECEIVED, SERVING DIVERS LUSTS AND PLEASURES, LIVING IN MALICE AND ENVY, HATEFUL, AND HATING ONE ANOTHER - - BUT AFTER THAT THE KINDNESS AND LOVE OF GOD OUR SAVIOR TOWARD MAN APPEARED, AND ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US.**

Let us think about what we have said considering our day and time.

I. Today we are living in a time like unto the time preceding the flood.

1. Genesis 6:5 reads: **And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

2. This is the condition that we find many, way too many, people acting today. Most people could care less about what God thinks.

When the world lost the respect for God and what he demands, he sent the flood.

II. Today we are living in a time like unto the times of James

1. The desire of humankind has led man to kill so he might get what he wants, many people have been killed over a dollar, and yet we still lust after it.

2. Lust has led to the death of many people. When I speak of this lust, I am speaking of the lust that leads to spiritual death of mankind.

III. Today we are still living in a time of hope: Isaiah 53:6-8 gives us part of this hope: **6. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

John 3:16 gives us more of this hope: SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. We have hope today, but what about tomorrow.

IV. There is coming a day when there will be no hope.

1. It will be like unto the time of the flood.

The people scoffed until it started raining.

2. It will be a like unto a time that we have never heard of.

People will leave in a blink of an eye then no hope. Nuclear war - Minot 1980

It will be a time when families will be separated because they lusted after the worldly things and not the heavenly things.

Let me close with what James 4:6-7-8: **⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**

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 10, as you pray, pray for God's guidance in each day.