

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 143

*God Wants Us to Face the Truth
About Ourselves
So, He Gives Us His Word*



*But in His Grace, He Dealt with all of Our Sins
at the Cross.*

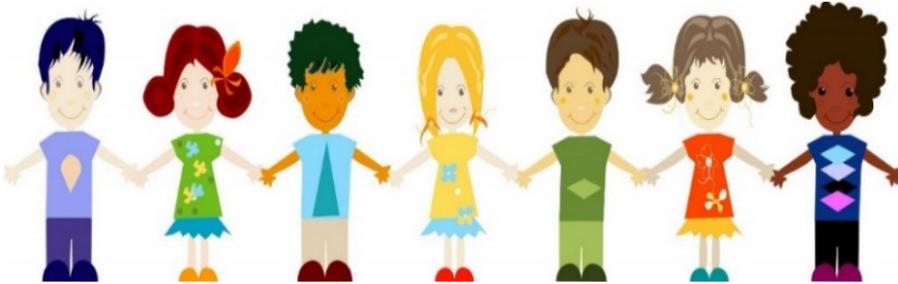
2020

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Jesus Christ, God's Son, loves us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man. He lived His entire life without sinning and He went to the cross to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. When He was finished suffering in our place, then Jesus was buried but He rose again from the dead and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. Believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and you will be saved and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

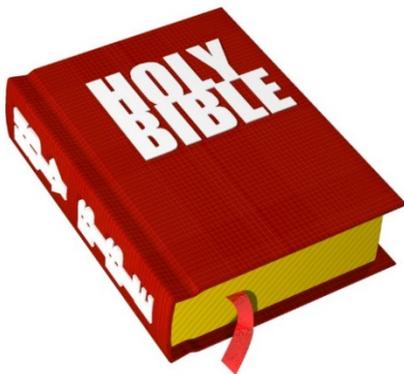


LESSON



Hi Kids. We are back in the letter of James today in the 4th chapter and in Paul's letters, too.

The last time we were with James, we saw that there are two kinds of wisdom. They represent two paths that every person can take while they live on earth. The wisdom from above leads to good things and the other wisdom is "worldly wisdom" that leads to disorder and evil things.



We know from Paul that **as believers and members of the body of Christ**, we have been given the wisdom from God because we are in Jesus Christ and that happened the very moment we believed in Jesus. **1 Cor 1:30-31 "But by His (God the Father's) doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, (31) so that, just as it is written, 'LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.'"**

So now, we move back into the letter of James where he deals with the basic problem every human being faces. We have enemies trying to destroy us. One of them actually lives in our bodies...our flesh! You already know about this from other lessons we have had together but we must always repeat things, so that we have full understanding of what it is we are up against in this world even as believers in Jesus.



As you know, we have been students in a continuing study in the classrooms of Jesus, Paul and James. We will soon see what Paul and Jesus have to say about the things James will teach us today in [James 4:1-10](#).

“What is the source of quarrels and arguments among you? Is not the source your pleasures (from the flesh) that wage

war in your members (body parts)? (2) You lust (want) and do not have; so, you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so, you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask (in prayer). (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives (reasons), so that, you may spend it on your pleasures. (4) You traitors (to God), do you not know that **friendship with the world is opposition toward God?** Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (5) Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: ‘He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?’ (6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore, it says, **‘GOD IS AGAINST THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.’** (7) Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) **Get closer to God and He will Get closer to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you hypocrite. (9) Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into sorrow and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will praise you.”

James is really worked up about this as you can see. It’s because **God wants us to face the truth about things, and He does it by giving us His Word.** This is certainly true when it comes to facing the truth ABOUT OURSELVES...our flesh or our “old man.” If we read [James Chapter 4](#) with an honest heart, we can’t escape the fact that we have lusts and desires in our bodies that fight a war of destruction in us. Yes, here in [James Chapter 4](#) we are asked to face the truth about our lusts, our envy, our secret desires for bad things; our wrong reasons; and the penalties that come when we give in to these lusts. When a lust starts up and we let it grow in our minds, it makes us sin.



We also come face to face with the fact that we have a tendency to get into the world and its bad ideas. We can even take up a friendship with the world, even though by its very nature such a friendship means we become enemies of God.



When the Bible speaks about the world in this sense, it means this: the organization and the mind and the outlook of mankind as it ignores and rejects God and lives a self-centered life totally away from Him. You don't want this! So, there you have it. If you accept the world outlook that ignores and rejects God and start living a self-centered life away from God, you are living as an enemy of God.

Paul had a fellow worker for the gospel named Demas who got caught up in world and look what happened. [2 Tim 4:9-10](#) "Make

every effort to come to me soon; (10) for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica..."

And John gives great understanding about the world in his first letter: [1 John 2:15-17](#) "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life (the center of the problem), is not from the Father, but is from the world. (17) The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

When we come face to face with the facts that we have wrong desires in us, that our old man, our flesh, wants to be friends with the world; when we reflect on the truth that when lust is allowed in our minds, it causes us to sin; and when sin has its way long enough in our daily lives, it gives us a kind of death that takes us away from God. And don't be fooled, coming face to face with the fact that nothing good lives in our bodies, that is, our flesh, it is a kind of death.



Paul talked about this in [Romans 7:4-5](#). "Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law (of sin) through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him (Jesus) who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God (serve Him). When we believed in Jesus, we died to the Law of sin...and it no longer controls us like it did when we were unbelievers! (5) For while we were in the flesh (unbelievers), the sinful passions (lust, wants), which were awakened by the Law (Ten Commandments), were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for **death**. The **death** here is when we were unbelievers. We were dead to God because we had a sin nature (the old man) that we got from Adam when we were born. We inherited Adam's sin from our earthly fathers and it condemned us to death, physically and spiritually and separated us from God. In other words, we were separated from God because we were sinners. Remember, God can have NOTHING to do with sin.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden after Satan tempted them to disobey God, they died spiritually and eventually they would die physically. They lost the human spirit that God gave them when He created them perfect, but GOOD NEWS, God had a plan to save mankind through Jesus.

Now let's continue in [Romans 7:6-8](#) "But now (after we believed in Jesus) we have been released from the Law (of sin), having died to that (sinfulness) by which we were slaves (as unbelievers), so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (of the Law of sin). (7) What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin (what sin was) except through the Law (Ten Commandments); for I would not have known about coveting (wanting or craving

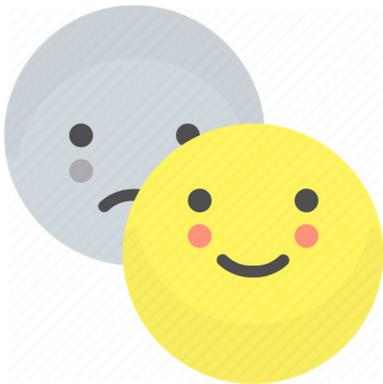


something we weren't supposed to want) if the Law had not said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COVET' (the 10th commandment). (8) But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead."



People didn't know about sin until God gave the Ten Commandments telling us not to sin. Our natural tendency as unbelievers is to do that which God forbids us to do. It's called disobedience. So, God gave us the Ten Commandments in order for us to understand that we were sinners and need the Savior, Jesus. No one knew about sin until we were told not to sin! Do you see how gracious God is to us? Be happy that He wanted to save us from eternal condemnation, right?

Romans 7:9-11 "I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the (Ten) commandments came, sin became alive (he knew he could sin) and **I died**; (10) and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; (11) for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it, **killed me.**" Okay, what Paul means here is that as soon as he knew he was a sinner, he also knew that he was condemned by God to death both spiritually and physically, because the law shows us sin and "the wages of sin is death."



Our laughter turns into mourning or sadness when we realize that the result of sin is death (both spiritual and physical for the unbeliever only and physical for the believer). But this is not the end! The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus for those who believe in Jesus and His work on the cross!! This is fantastic, kids. Let it sink into your heart.



What does our Lord say about those who weep and mourn? [Matt 5:4](#) "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." [Luke 6:21](#) "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."

How does it happen that after we mourn or are sad, we will be comforted? After we cry, there will be a time for laughing? James shows us the way here. **GOD IS OPPOSED TO (goes against) THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**" Our pride gets knocked down when we come face to face with our death as unbelievers. We get sad or mourn. Mourning can be a time that gets us ready to be humble or have a humble heart. And when we do, and believe in Jesus as our Savior, we are finally ready to hold on to and appreciate what God has chosen to freely give us in His grace. Mourning leads to being humble, which leads to a new thankfulness for the grace of God...especially for JESUS!

With our new humility, we realize that God is all powerful and we are very weak. So, we let the Lord's power deal with our enemies and the Holy Spirit wars against the flesh. Jesus defeated the world at the cross. And the armor of God sends the principalities and powers (the fallen angels of Satan) packing. You NEVER need to fear them. When we are humbled, we are ready to walk by means of the Holy Spirit. And we know that we need to put on the full armor of God (Eph 6:10-17) every day since the days are evil.



James 4:9-10
 "Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will praise you."

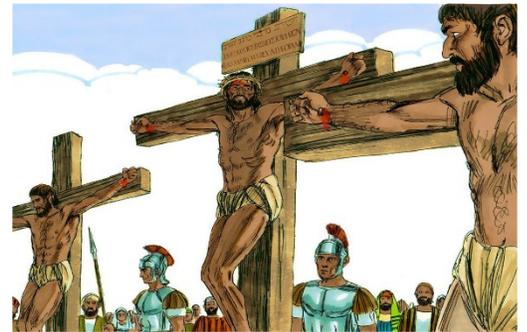
James sees the life of God's people through the Old Testament, and the Old Testament speaks to the sons of Israel, **the Jews, God's earthly people**. These were God's chosen people who would bring the Messiah to earth through the line of King David. **The Church** (that's all believers now) **are God's heavenly people**. That's because when Jesus was born and fulfilled all the prophecies in the Old Testament about His birth and death, His earthly family, the Jews, mostly rejected Him. They did not believe Him when He came to earth and proved He was the Messiah. **Some believed but not enough** so, after Jesus died on the cross, was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven, God the Father postponed the Kingdom and His promises to the Jews where Jesus would have been their King on earth for a thousand years in perfect environment and great blessing. This is called the Millennium period of time. But it was postponed because they did not accept Him as their Messiah. This made Jesus very, very sad.



So, God then turned to the Gentiles, all those people who were not Jews, and allowed them to have the Gospel of the good news about salvation. Now they could all be saved, too! This is called the Church Age, a new period of time from God for people to be saved after Jesus went back up to heaven. These people, which includes all of us now, are His

heavenly people, since Jesus is now in Heaven with the Father, and we who have believed in Jesus are in Him and seated WITH HIM and are now heavenly. Oh, yes, we're still here on earth but in God's eyes we are in Jesus in heaven. We are citizens of heaven

So, now let's turn to Paul's letters to learn who we are and how we are to live as citizens of heaven here on earth. Col 3:1-4 "Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ (and we have been), keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth (worldly things). (3) For **you have died** (with Jesus) and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."



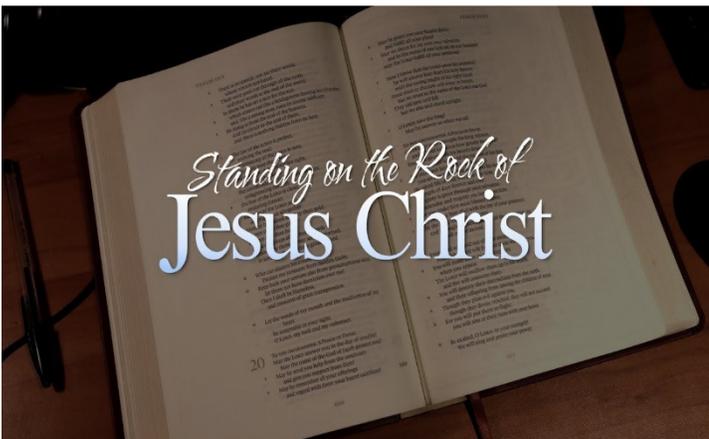
"You have died." Let that sink into your heart now and every day. It's a humbling fact. But it leads to something wonderful. Your life is now hidden. Where? With Christ, in Him, and you are sitting with Him at the right hand of God the father in heaven. Or in other words, your life now is a heavenly life even though you are here on earth. And you have died to sin's slavery over you because of Jesus. This world has nothing for you any more than a bank account is of no use to a dead body in the grave. Gal 6:14 "But may it never be that I would boast, except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**"



As God's heavenly family, we have our instructions from Paul in Col 3:5-17.

"Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. (6) For it is because of these things (sinfulness) that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience (unbelievers), (7) and in them you also once

walked (you were an unbeliever before you were saved in Jesus), when you were living in them (slaves to your sins). (8) But now (as a believer) you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old man (the flesh) with its evil practices, (10) and have put on the new man who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One (Jesus) who created him (11) a renewal in which there is no difference between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (12) So, as those who have been chosen of God (that's us...believers), holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.** (14) Beyond all these things **put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.** (15) **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body (in Christ); and **be thankful.** (16) **Let the word of Christ richly live within you,** with all wisdom teaching and warning one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (17) Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."



You know, kids, we face the same enemies, the same troubles, as the people to whom James and Paul wrote did. Except that we face them standing on the Rock, Jesus Christ. And we face them from a heavenly place in Jesus, with heavenly blessings being showered on us. We are looking into heaven, where our life is, to see those heavenly

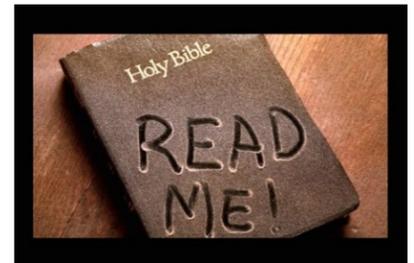
blessings that we have in Jesus Christ right now...all of them.

In closing our lesson this week, we see that Jesus has gained the victory for us over all our enemies: sin, death, the flesh, the world, and the devil's principalities and powers. Col 2:13-15 "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our sins, (14) having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees (from God) against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Jesus)."

Let's leave with this wonderful message from **JESUS**, who said in John 16:33, **"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble, but take courage; I have overcome the world."**

So, until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.



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