



Sermon, Sunday May 2, 2021, “Warning about Self-Confidence”

SCRIPTURE James 4:13-17 ¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.” ¹⁴ Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.

Introduction: Love one another

The Bible tells us to love one another. **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34). “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15:12).**

Jesus' command to love one another is a command that Christians must obey. Unfortunately, it is difficult to practice love. Today's text warns against those who are too self-confident. James tells us what true faith is and to check our faith.

In today's text verse 4:13, James exclaims. **“Come now”** to get people's attention. By the way, why does James warn against self-confident people? **Let's look at James 4:13. “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain”**

People with self-confidence made plans for business. They decide when, where, how long, and how they do business. And they expect the results to be profitable. Also, this plan was very carefully formulated. But what's wrong with this plan?

James doesn't say that making plans for business is bad. It also does not say it is not right to make a profit doing business. It is normal to plan one's business ahead of time and make a profit from it.

What James points out is that the Lord is missing from their plans. He points out an attitude expressing confidence that everything in the world will be done according to thoughts and plans. He warns us of the foolishness of planning and convincing ourselves without asking the Lord for will. This is arrogance that takes over the place where the Lord should be in our lives.

James warns those who value our thoughts and perspectives as more important than the Lord's Word, those who profess their faith but still rely on the philosophy and values of the world, and those who do not seek the will of the Lord when planning and making choices in life. These people still live by the values of the world. To these people, James asks, "Who the hell are you, why are you sitting in the place of the Lord?"

So, James reminds us of what human beings are in order to keep us from falling into such stupidity. **James 4:14 says, “Whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes”**

What kind of beings are humans? We don't even know what's going to happen tomorrow. We are limited and dependent beings who cannot even see ahead of time. Therefore, we cannot find hope in a life without the Lord. I hope we have the wisdom to see our lives humbly instead of arrogantly in place of the Lord.

Body: Human greed and arrogance

The Lord speaks clearly of two reasons why man forgets the duty of the church as the body of the Lord. It is people's greed and arrogance. People's greed and arrogance make human beings self-confident. James clearly says that it is a sin. (James 4:17)



1) Greed

According to the Genesis of the Old Testament, Adam and Eve, who were tempted by Satan, ate the fruit forbidden by the Lord. As a result, Adam and Eve hide from the Lord because of their guilt and fear. This shows that the relationship between man and the Lord is cut off. As the relationship with the Lord is broken, the relationship between Adam and Eve is also broken.

Adam and Eve ate the fruit that the Lord had forbidden because of their desire to become liked by the Lord. The desire to be better than others and to be recognized more than others breaks the relationship with the Lord and one's neighbors.

The same goes for the church. There may be conflicts between individuals, or between groups. No one wants to live a life of faith in conflict. We want to live in reconciliation and peace.

James says that because of desires, there are fights and quarrels among people. **Look at James 4:1. "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?"**

James points out that criticism, quarrels, confrontations, and divisions within a community are due to our desires. Our greed not only leads us to overlook the Lord's, which is not ours, but also breaks the peace and harmony of the community. Christians should not remain in the stupidity of forgetting the duty of the church by governing desires by the power of the Holy Spirit. Also, as Christians we must fight against arrogance.

2) Arrogance

In the Old Testament there is a story of the Tower of Babel. But what did it matter that people built the Tower of Babel? People wanted to reveal their names to the world through the Tower of Babel. In addition, they thought that if the majority gathered and became one, they would be able to show their strength. But there is something we should not overlook. That is, we have to look at the motives which brought them together.

The people who built the Tower of Babel made their names known to the world and tried to stand on an equal footing with the Lord. This is arrogance. So, to prevent their unity, the Lord messed up the language and scattered these people all over the world. After all, gathering power with evil motives is only a shortcut to ruining community.

Humans are not the ones who can sit in the Lord's place. Instead, we cannot live without the help of the Lord. Also, we cannot enjoy true life without the Lord. But sometimes people are so confident and very positive about themselves. It is the will of the Lord that we live our lives positively and happily. But that doesn't mean tolerating our greed and arrogance.

Conclusion: Let's get into the habit of seeking the Lord in our daily lives.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. **Psalm 14:1 say, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good"**

However, no person is more foolish than one who says that there is no Lord while living as a person who takes the place of the Lord, and also saying that we know and believe in the Lord. They are people who are full of self-confidence because of greed and arrogance, as today's text shows.

We are so arrogant that we often sin for ourselves to take the place of the Lord. **So James urges us to make the habit of saying, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that." (James 4:15)**

As Christians, we must make a habit of seeking the will of the Lord in our daily life and asking for help. Through it, we must protect ourselves from greed, arrogance, and self-confidence. May these blessings be with us through the help of the Holy Spirit.

