

The Epistle of James

17

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we continue our study of James, this time reading through the third section, **3:1-4:12**. This section is divided into two subsections. Read each subsection, answering for yourself the questions associated with it. Jot down or type out your the answers and file them together with your morning study.

Read James 3:1-12

- Why should not many of James' readers presume to be teachers? (**3:1**).
- Who does James consider to be a perfect man? (**3:2**).
- What can no man tame? (**3:8**).
- How is the tongue described as a "fire"? (**3:5-6**).
- What does James say "should not be"? (**3:9-10**).

Read James 3:13-17

- How should James' readers show wisdom and understanding? (**3:13**).
- What should they not boast about? (**3:14**).
- What "wisdom" does not come from heaven? (**3:14-15**).
- Where will you find disorder and every evil practice? (**3:16**).
- What are the qualities of the wisdom that comes from heaven? (**3:17-18**).

Read James 4:1-12

- What causes fights and quarrels among Christians? (**4:1-2**).
- What were the wrong motives that James' readers had in prayer? (**4:3**).
- Why does James call his readers "adulterous"? (**4:4**).
- Who does God oppose? (**4:6**).
- Who does God give grace to? (**4:6**).
- What must we do before God will lift us up? (**4:10**).
- Why should we not slander or judge our neighbor? (**4:11-12**).

Memory Verse

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world because an enemy of God.

James 4:4

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!