

The Gravity of Grace (James 4:7-10)

- Gravity of grace works like earth's water system- always flowing from high to low
- Grace's gravity carries it to the lowly heart, where it brings life and blessing
- Grace goes to the humble. This is the spiritual law of Prov 3:34 James quoted: v6
- The unbowed soul receives no benefit from God's descending grace
- But the soul lying humbly before God is immersed & even swims in a sea of grace

I. Resist...Come Near (4:7b-8a)

- James' first couplet: negative & positive of a mutual call: negative 'resist the devil & he will flee from you' Positive: 'come near to God & He will come near to you'
- 'Resist' military term: stand against, martial language suggests a parallel to Eph 6
- Eph 6:12- struggle is supernatural, supra-flesh and blood, hand to hand combat
- It cannot be fought with traditional weapons: a spiritual war against angelic hosts
- Positive: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you
- Glorious truth in this is that if you go after God, He will come after you (prayer)

II. Wash...Purify (4: 8b)

- James' second couplet gives an external and internal aspects of the same action
- External: Cleanse your hands...sinners. Internal: purify your hearts double minded
- James started calling them brothers, he is now biting, "sinners... double minded"
- Double minded – means "two souled" literally: allegiance to God and the world
- This is a spiritual impossibility. Absurd for Christian to try to serve two masters
- The Lord calls us to single-minded allegiance to himself- have eyes only for Him
- Jesus' words: blessed are the pure(single minded) in heart, for they shall see God

III Mourn...Turn (4:9)

- Gloom is not a Christian characteristic, but mourning over sin is (Zech 12:10)
- Mourn, grieve described the wretchedness a Christian should feel falling into sin
- "Change your laughter into mourning and joy into gloom" this is a denunciation of some Christians who are insensitive & superficial when they ought to be weeping
- Some laughter indicates a sickness of soul that only tears can cure
- The way up for the Christian is the way down, Jesus modeled this law Himself
- Phil 2:9-11- He humbled & emptied Himself, therefore God highly exalted Him
- Gravity of grace will always channel rivers of divine favor to the lowly (v.10)