



“Pre”-James 4:4-5 Pt 1 ☺ - A Vision of Heaven!

September 6, 2015

Foundational Text: James 4:4-5

James 4:4-5 ESV You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (5) Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

The primary texts for today will come from Revelation

- I call this sermon “Pre”-James 4:4-5 because in our view, truly understanding and truly embracing this text, for many will require some “overall message” work.
- What I mean is that both the spiritual and the practical, day-to-day implications of such a text are enormous. So much so, that in order to see and lovingly submit to the sacrifices required might call for another look at “where we are going with this.”
- We have said on several occasions that because of carnality and worldly perspectives, it is hard for us to see with “Jesus lenses” and to make decisions not based on the “now” but the “then.”
- Jesus said, *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (45) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, (46) who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46 ESV*
- **This is the perspective we need, precious friends!!! The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure worth selling all for! The Kingdom of Heaven is the pearl of great value, worth giving up everything for! The King is worthy and worth any and every bit of endurance and perseverance!!**

A Vision of Heaven from Revelation

Perspective encouragements!

1. A Vision of God!
 - *Revelation 4:1-5*
 - **Perspective:** Be **overwhelmed** at the majesty and power of God! Don't allow yourself to lose your awe! Imagine this scene; affix your gaze upon Him who is on the throne; then think of the best response. Awestruck! Prostrate! Mesmerized! Ashamed! Wonder! Worship! Let the “cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches” (Matt 13:22) melt away under the weight of His glory!
2. The Worship of God!
 - *Revelation 4:6-11*
 - **Perspective:** Be **humbled** by His holiness and worthiness! His eternal nature and dominion! His creative power and perfect will! And then “cast” any crowns down, falling down before Him! The more this vision of Him is lifted up, the easier it will be to see the world for what it is: fallen, depraved and perverse, and passing away!
3. The Victory of Jesus!
 - *Revelation 5:1-5*
 - **Perspective:** Behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David! Behold Him who “has conquered” and who alone “can open the scroll and its seven seals.” Fill your eyes with **Jesus**;

enlarge Him in your vision and “weep no more!” Joy! He has conquered! He rules and reigns!
What are worldly delights compared to Him? ☺

4. The Gospel and the Worthiness of the Lamb!
 - *Revelation 5:6-14*
 - **Perspective:** Remember that which is of “**first importance**,” “that Christ died in accordance with the Scriptures, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures!” (1 Cor 15:3-4) Jesus is worthy of our worship and adoration and our very lives...for WHO He is and for WHAT He has done! WORTHY IS THE LAMB! Therefore, like the heavenly elders, we should fall down and worship!
5. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb!
 - *Revelation 19:6-10*
 - **Perspective:** “**Hallelujah**, for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!” “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” What is this truth worth? What are carnal philosophies and idolatries in comparison? They are NOTHING! Hallelujah!
6. The New Heaven and New Earth!
 - *Revelation 21:1-7*
 - **Perspective:** Paradise **lost** will become paradise **restored**! We are simply pilgrims and sojourners passing through (1 Pet 2:11), on our way to the New Jerusalem to dwell with God! This changes the game! Want joy? Here it is! ☺ Want motivation to block the world on Twitter? Boom!
7. The New Jerusalem!
 - *Revelation 21:9-11, 21-27*
 - **Perspective:** Behold the end state of our salvation, and **rejoice**! Take a good, encouraging look. For since we are being encouraged to break off friendship with the world, here, in my opinion, is **motivation** enough. Because of the vicarious, substitutionary work of Christ Jesus our Lord, and because of His love, we are destined to live in a city without a temple, “for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.” It is a place of unsurpassed beauty, where it is always day. It will always be pure, lit up with His glory. And it will be filled with those who are written in the Lamb’s book of Life!

Final Encouragements

- **May this church be encouraged today with thoughts of what will be!**
- **May we fill our minds and hearts with the ultimate truth of the Gospel...that because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, we have everlasting life and will spend eternity with Him in Heaven!**
- **May we NEVER lose our joy because of what our Lord asks of us! May we NEVER sign a peace accord with the world. May we, right NOW, unfriend the world on spiritual Facebook! ☺**
- **May we be overwhelmed by the immensity of what awaits, the grandeur of His presence, the overwhelming nature of His love, and therefore resist worldliness until the shedding of blood (Heb 12:1-4).**
- **May our strength and joy be tethered to that which is eternal, and to Him who is everlasting. And may we realize the utter futility of anchoring our joy in the temporary pleasures and pursuits of this life instead of in Christ.**

In Jesus’ name CRCC, Amen.