**WITH CHRISTMAS IN VIEW**

**(JAMES 4)**

1. **THE CONFLICT (v.1-7)**
2. Self (v.1-3)
3. The world (v.4-6)
4. The devil (v.7)
5. **THE CALL (v.8-10)**
6. Draw near
7. Cleanse your hands, purify your hearts
8. Mourn and weep
9. Humble yourselves

Mary (Luke 1:38); the shepherds (Luke 2:15-16); the Wisemen (Matt.2:1-2, 11)

1. **THE CAUTION (v.11-17)**
2. Speech: evil against another and judging
3. Speech: boasting about tomorrow

THE TIME TO CONSIDER…….

1. With Christmas in view, often pressures and frenzy can increase and consume us. As James has reminded us, the self and the world and the devil are all opposed to God. Will you ask the Lord to examine your own heart, reveal any thoughts or ways that are contrary to Him, and confess them to Him? How are you seeking to “have things your own way” even at the expense of others? In what ways are you simply following others’ examples instead of looking to the Lord?
2. Will you “hand your Christmas” over to the Lord and ask Him to guide you as you celebrate His coming?
3. Will you consider the examples in the Christmas story.: Mary (Luke 1:38), the shepherds (Luke 2:15-16); the Wisemen (Matt.2:1-2, 11).Will you ask the Lord to enable you to acknowledge your lowly estate before Him and not move until you are overwhelmed by the condescension and magnificence of God?
4. When James writes, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”, has there been a time in your life where you have drawn near? Confessed your need for a Savior? Surrendered everything to Him? Truly received Jesus as your own Savior?
5. This Christmas season, will you be careful with your speech? If you discover yourself speaking evil or judgmental statements about another, will you trace it back to your heart and confess the pride that such a statement is rooted in? Instead of boasting and running things yourself, will you daily spend time with the Lord in His Word, seeking His plan for that day, surrendering your own plans, and boasting of the mighty God you serve?