

## Provisions for the Worn Out: Part 3c

Sunset Avenue Church of God

September 20, 2020

**Discussion Question:** What in your own heart do you need to be paying attention to avoid quarreling?

Daniel 7:25 “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High...” [KJV]

The enemy of our soul desires to wear us out.

### 1. Questions

### 2. Quaking (Fear)

### 3. Quarreling

2 Tim 2:24 “**And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil.**” [ESV]

We distinguish between quarreling and debating. Healthy debate has a desire for truth by both parties. A quarrel just wants to shout down the other opinion.

What is the provision for quarreling?

#### A. Avoid

Titus 3:2, 9, 10 “to speak evil of no one, **to avoid quarreling,**” [ESV]

#### B. Accurate

2 Tim 2:14-17 “Remind them of these things, and charge them before God **not to quarrel about words**, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**” [ESV]

#### C. Accept

Person that's Weak: Rom 14:1 “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him (receive, accept), but not to quarrel over opinions.” [ESV]

Position of Contentment: 1 Tim 6:3-5 “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. 6 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment.” [ESV]

**TODAY:** (What is the biblical provision for quarreling?)

#### D. Attentive

The book of James deals with practical Christian living. James constantly rebukes the shameful neglect of how we are to live and urges us to demonstrate the validity of our experience with Christ by our actions. One of those practical things is quarreling.

James 4:1 “**What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures** (passions, ESV; lusts, KJV) **that wage war in your members?**” [NASU]

He points to the root of our quarreling. It is our pleasures, our passions, and our lusts.

How does James tell us to deal with it?

**a. Pay Attention to Actions**

- Standing with? – Friendship with world makes us an enemy
- Submitting to? – Surrender to the will and ways of God
- Striving Against? – Resist Satan
- Showing respect to? Humble ourselves in HIS sight
  - Note he says humble ourselves in HIS sight...God is always watching! Not to destroy us but to reward us. **Humble yourself and HE will exalt you!**
  - Satan plays the God's watching you to get you! The Holy Spirit encourages us...God is watching to spiritual bless your life!
- Speech? Are you speaking evil of a brother?

**b. Pay Attention to Attitude**

James 4:13-17 *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.' 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."* [ESV]

Note the self-centered attitude of this individual:

- Design (Today or Tomorrow)
- Destination (Specific Town)
- Dwell (Spend Year)
- Determination (Engage in business)
- Dividend (Make a profit)

James is not against planning... he is against plans that are not informed by eternity. A life that is shaped by the reality that we are temporary acts differently. The plans are not the priority...eternity is and those who we come in contact with that are also headed for eternity and that really matters!

But a right attitude about God matters...if HE wills! This truth should constantly shape our thinking...yes we should plan...Jesus rebukes those who don't...but we never lose sight that our lives are in his hands.

NOTE: Boasting...arrogance & pride causes us to have an attitude that runs after our own pleasures and passions and that self-centeredness produces quarreling. It removes God from our actions and our plans.