

WELCOME!



Worship
10:30 am

Morning Worship

March 7, 2021

Reflections

James is not trying to banish planning from our lives, but only that sort of self-sufficient, self important planning that keeps God for Sunday but looks on Monday to Saturday as mine.

~ J. Alec Motyer, *The Message of James: The Tests of Faith*

Since life is so brief, we cannot afford merely to “spend our lives”; and we certainly do not want to “waste our lives.” We must invest our lives in those things that are eternal. God reveals His will in His Word, and yet most people ignore the Bible. In the Bible, God gives precepts, principles, and promises that can guide us in every area of life.

~ Warren Wiersbe, *Be Mature*

Is it so, O man, that thy life is self governed? Is there not, after all, One greater than thyself? Is there not a higher power that can speed thee or stop thee? If thou dost not know this, thou hast not yet learned the first letter of the alphabet of wisdom.

~ C.H. Spurgeon

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Psalm 90:1-2 (in unison)

**Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.**

**² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Songs of Praise — Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging Mysterious, and unknown
Your boundless love, unfailing
In grace and mercy shown
Bright seraphim in endless flight
Around Your glorious throne
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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Lord, we are weak and frail Helpless in the storm
Surround us with Your angels Hold us in Your arms
Our cold and ruthless enemy
His pleasure is our harm
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sovereign God (chorus)

Let every creature in the sea And every flying bird
Let every mountain, every field
And valley of the earth
Let all the moons and all the stars In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word
(chorus 2x)

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Praise — Only A Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Chorus:

Come and behold Him

The One and the Only

Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Chorus (2x)

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God!

Chorus (2x)

Confession of Sin — Psalm 90:3-11

- ³ You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!”
⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

Assurance of Pardon — Isaiah 44:22, 1 John 1:9

- ²² I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud
and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.
⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Consecration — Psalm 90:12-17 (responsive in bold)

- ¹² **So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.**
¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
¹⁴ **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
¹⁵ **Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.**
¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
¹⁷ **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Response in Song — All to Jesus I Surrender

C F C G⁷ Em G⁷ C F C G⁷ Em C

1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;
 2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow,
 3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly thine;
 4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

F C G⁷ Em G⁷ C F C G⁷ Em C

may I ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.
 world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Je - sus, take me now.
 may thy Ho - ly Spir - it fill me, may I know thy pow'r di - vine.
 fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ing fall on me.

REFRAIN

C F C G G G⁷ C

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.
 I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.

F C F C/G G⁷ C 7

All to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

Congregational Prayer

Offering*

**You can give on-line at the New Hope website: www.newhopeopc.org and click on the green “give” button in the corner.*

Sermon Text — James 4:13-17

¹³ 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.

Sermon — A Mist in God’s Hands

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Prayer of Application

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Everyone should have a prepackaged bread and juice. It is not gluten free. If you do not have a prepacked container, please raise your hand at this time to allow the elders to come serve you.

Benediction

Postlude

A Mist in God's Hands

James 4:13-17

1. The Boasting Prophet (vs. 13-14)

2. The Depending Pilgrim (vs 15-17)

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Give thanks and praise that Tim & Julie Wesolek's granddaughter, Eleanor, is breathing on her own, now using a pacifier, and able to regulate her own body temperature! Pray that she continues to gain weight to get to 4 pounds so that she can go home. Pray, too, that her sight development will be unaffected by the premature birth.
- Pray for Kim Hanlin's dad, now at Citizen's Nursing home. Pray that the Lord will change his heart and that he will come to know God in a life-saving way.
- Pray that we will be a people who invest our lives in those things that are eternal, immersing ourselves in His word, knowing that this life is fleeting.
- Pray for the session as they lead the congregation. Pray that the Lord will continue to give them strength to carry out their calling, to have the ability to love, care for, and protect the flock, and be diligent in prayer and study of the scripture.
- Pray that God will bring peace and comfort and faith to those who are struggling with depression and/or anxiety. Pray, too, for those who are feeling lonely and are missing community.
- Pray for the other couples from New Hope who are preparing to marry: Emily Howard/Leo Zavala and Caleb Mason/Joanna Wichern.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: Jen William's brother, Mike, Christopher Burden, the Vidal family, Scott Innes, Kim Hanlin's father, John & Muriel Hadidian's daughter-in-law, the Wright family, Bill Wright, Ron Oakes, Ed Rodatus and those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones. Pray for strength to bear their difficult trials.

Frederick Area

- Pray for the missions that we support financially: CareNet Pregnancy Center, Child Evangelism Fellowship, and the Frederick Rescue Mission. Pray that God will continue to provide for all their needs.
- Pray for the Frederick Rescue Mission as it seeks to provide food and physical needs for those who are in need particularly during these cold winter months.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our missions of the month — OPC Home Missions and church planting. Pray particularly for the men who are planting churches around the country as they look for effective ways of outreach and training and seek wisdom and boldness in sharing the gospel.
- Pray for Liesl and Benny Boyed as they continue to minister and serve in Nepal. Pray for continued good health and safety and that the Lord will use them well for the furtherance of His kingdom.
- Pray for Claire Hall as she serves the Lord in Merkinch, Scotland and looks for opportunities to love those in the schemes and share the good news of the gospel with them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members/Inquirer's Class — On **Saturday March 13th** we plan to host an inquirer's/new member's class. We will start at 8am (doughnuts and coffee will be there) and run until 1pm. We will socially distance in the sanctuary at New Hope. This class is for anyone interested in knowing more about New Hope, or joining New Hope. Lunch will be provided from noon to 1pm. Please don't skip this part!

Francis & Laura usually host a dinner Friday night so everyone can get to know each other, hear a bit about each other. Because of Covid, we're going to make that an outdoor lunch thing, and have it all on Saturday. Hopefully it's sunny and warm. Otherwise we'll set up tables inside at appropriate spaces.

Coming soon: Two Services — As we all continue to groan under the effects of Covid, the session wants to enable as many of us to gather in person for worship as possible. To that end, we plan to begin two services in the near future.

Our first service will continue to be at 10:30am, and we encourage those who feel strongly about full mask and social distancing compliance to attend this service. We request that everyone at this service be especially conscientious of wearing masks, and also to refrain from loitering inside the building or around the exits.

We will also have an indoor service at 12:00 noon. During this service we encourage masks and appropriate distancing as able. This service will be held outdoors whenever weather permits.

This is an opportunity to love those who may differ from you by freeing one another to come to the service best suited to them, and by honoring the tenor of that service. We will bear with each other in love, recognizing that conscience and medical necessity may dictate differing choices.

As we have done all along, we will continue to livestream the 10:30 am service for anyone who cannot come in person.

Regardless of which service you attend, or whether you join us in fellowship from home via livestream, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Upcoming Dates to Know:

- **New Members Class**, Saturday, March 13

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text: James 3:18— ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ **And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

Westminster Shorter Catechism 38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection? *At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgement, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.*

Monday: How does James 4:13 demonstrate a this-worldly view of our time, our plans, our profit? What makes this arrogant boasting (v 16)? Is it wrong to plan or invest (Mt 25:20-28)? Find specific places you observe such a focus in the world. Where do you see hints of these in yourself (e.g. prayer)?

Tuesday: James 4:14. What three truths does James want the self-reliant, this-worldly-focused person to think about? How do they help correct this-worldly thinking? How does a robust mist-theology (life is short, transient, insubstantial) shape how you spend your time, your plans, your profits, and your view of life? Although life is a mist, are a believer's 'minor' actions insignificant to God (Mt 10:42, Lk 19:17, 1 Tim 6:18-19)?

Wednesday: James 4:15. What principle does James spell out in v 15? From what perspective does he want us to view all of our life (cf Lk 12:20-22, 1 Cor 10:31, 2 Pet 3:8-13)? How does a dependence on the Lord, and eternity with him, challenge your priorities, focus, and actions? Pray for wisdom to glorify him conscientiously.

Thursday: James 4:13-17. Ponder the futility of life if it is 'only' a mist. Pray for specific unbelievers who have no hope. What benefits are there from living in light of our transience, God's sovereignty, and the glory of eternity (e.g. Lk 12:21-22, Col 3:1ff, Mt 10:42, 2 Pet 3:11, 1 Pet 1:2-4, 6)?

Friday: What sin of omission is James 4:17 pointing back to? How serious does James think living without this perspective is? How can you grow in this way of thinking and living? (Bonus: consider the Bible's ultimate answer to our transitory nature, our treasure, and our future plans.)

Saturday: What kind of treasure-storing have the rich in James 5:1-6 missed?