

OUR MISSION

We exist to be a refuge, drawing ourselves and others into a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HILLSIDE SMALL GROUP – Our main group starts back this Wednesday, August 3rd and will meet weekly. Childcare will be provided. Come have community outside of Sundays

HILLSIDE KIDS - Help our children's ministry. We need a few volunteers even once a month to return to full strength for our children.

HILLSIDE PRAYER GROUP - Our prayer group meets on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the church building. Come pray with us! These have been fantastic meetings!

NEW TESTAMENT READING – This week, Romans 3:21 – Romans 10



HILLSIDE CHURCH

GET CONNECTED

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OUR WEBSITE

HILLSIDECHURCHTN.ORG

LISTEN TO OUR
WORSHIP PLAYLIST



THE BOOK OF JAMES

CHAPTER 4

July 31ST, 2022

THE FOLLY OF SELF AND THE SUPREMACY OF GOD *James 4:1-12*

Introduction

- The agent I invite you to consider with me is the deadliest of all and that is the human heart. From the human heart, we constantly see the motives of mankind exposed and exercised.
- The desires of the flesh are really the desires of self that give no regard to God nor his kingdom and the advancement of it.
- To live for oneself is to worship one's self, and that is the fundamental tragedy of the human dilemma: to worship self and forsake God.
- Instead of worshiping God as our supreme sovereign, we put ourselves in that position, and unless we repent of this substantial error, utter destruction will be our destination.

Verses 1-6

- What causes such quarreling and infighting amongst believers? Passions, or perhaps better rendered, self-centered desires. This is where we get the word "hedonism", which comes from the Greek word "hedone", which means passions.
- God who made everything perfect in the beginning, and despite our rebellion through our first parents, still chose according to his good pleasure, to save us who ruined everything because of our sin.
- Pastor John MacArthur helps remind us that, "on the cross, God looked at Christ and saw you. Now, he looks at you and sees Christ."

Verses 7-12

- Pride is the trademark, the calling card of Satan.
- The only way we can grow in humility is by God continually building within you the new heart of flesh he's given you in replacement of our old hearts of stone.
- Satan cannot remain so near us when we are constantly in the presence of Almighty God. God and Satan cannot share the same space.
- What happens is that we exchange the worship of self, which is a dull, bland, and dead world for a vivid, radiant and exhilarating world as we worship God instead!

Verses: *Hebrews 1:3-4, Colossians 3:4, John 3:30*

- He took our place and so we believe solely upon him for salvation. At the cross we see both the generosity of God and the severity of God.
- At the cross we see His just wrath satisfied first and foremost. We also see his perfect love realized and his divine will accomplished.

THE HARDEST PRAYER *James 4:13-16*

There is nothing wrong with making plans for the future but when we do not include God in those plans we are acting as practical atheists or even might call us self-theists, meaning that we are setting ourselves up as god in place of the sovereign God of all creation.

Verses: *Job 7:7, Psalm 78:39*

Seeking after the will of God in life can be some of the hardest prayers or some of the easiest prayers you will ever pray. It all depends on your knowledge and faith in God.

We set ourselves up over and over in the place of God and we profane the sovereignty of God and claim it for ourselves.

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ~Romans 7:18-20 (ESV)

The Son was in perfect submission to the will of the Father to accomplish His purpose and plan.

The perfect will of the Father is the only place to find perfect rest.

"Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies." **~The Westminster Catechism Question #98**

"I do know that waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart to God about it whenever it intrudes up one's thoughts. It's easy to talk oneself into a decision that has no permanence, -easier sometimes than to wait patiently." **~Elizabeth Elliott**

Whose Will?

1. *What areas have you have been seeking after your own will instead of God's will?*
2. *How easy do we find it to trust fully in God and His goodness?*
3. *Are we able to find ourselves praying not our will but God's be done no matter what the consequence is?*