

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Jesus: Do You Know Him?

Week of September 9, 2018 A.D.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd...My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Do you know Him? Are you following Him? We shall explore the answers to those questions in this lesson.

Read James 1:1; 2:1

1. To whom is the letter of James written: (a) to all Jews or (b) to Jewish Christians? Is the teaching of the letter of James to be studied and obeyed by all Christians or only by the Jewish Christians? Please explain your answers.

Read James 4:1 – 3

2. Give some examples of how our culture encourages us to "want something which we do not have" and to "covet" and to "quarrel and fight." Give some examples of how our culture encourages us to personally (without the influence of laws which require us to do so) be "generous", "not quarrelsome", and "peacemakers who do not retaliate against those who do us wrong". In your opinion, is our culture (a) mostly pagan or (b) mostly followers of Christ? Please explain your answers.
3. Read verse 3. In the context of this verse, does the word "pleasures" include (a) your personal health, (b) consumer goods, (c) vacations, (d) homes, and/or (e) recreation? In your opinion, does this verse have any application to those who are Christians in our culture? Please explain your answers.

Read James 4:4 – 6

4. What is the meaning of these verses? In your opinion, do these verses have any application to those who are Christians in our culture? Please explain your answers.
5. Please give examples of how our culture enables and encourages us to (a) be proud and (b) be humble. How does verse 6 apply to us personally today?

Read James 4:7 – 10

6. In your opinion, how well do American Christians: (a) practice and encourage submission and obedience to God? (b) resist the devil? Please explain your answers.

7. In your opinion, does “God’s grace” excuse us from obedience and submission to God? Or, does “God’s grace” compel us to live in obedience and submission to God? Please explain your answer.

Read James 5:1 – 6

8. Are these verses too offensive, inappropriate, and judgmental to be taken seriously by the present population of American Christians? Please explain your answer.
9. What is the appropriate behavioral modification which is to be made in the lives of the Christians in America from a sincere and unbiased understanding of these verses? Please explain your answer. Consider in your answer the hourly wages which are paid to those who produce goods for us in many foreign countries.

Read Revelation 3:14 – 22

10. In your opinion, what can be stated in support of the argument that verses 14 – 17 apply to the current church in America? What can be stated in opposition to that argument? Please explain your answers.
11. Read verses 19 – 20. Does hearing the voice of Jesus include obedience to the voice of Jesus? Will Jesus kick down the door of your heart if you don’t open it to let Him in? Does eating with Jesus (a) require daily time alone with Jesus, (b) require that you seek to know Him and serve Him, and/or (c) require that He receive your undivided love and attention? Please explain your answers.
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Regardless of our own presumptions, opinions, and beliefs, Jesus expects His followers (i.e. the church) to forsake the deceptive riches, attractions, and diversions of the world system and to be fully committed to Jesus as our only master and only best friend.”

Consider: Jesus has no use for a lukewarm church. Jesus is calling the church to “be earnest and repent.” Only then will the church be able to experience the power and joy which come through a personal, passionate, committed, relationship with Christ. “You think about that.” Amen.