



Sunday, May 16, 2010: "This Mist of Life and the Will of God"

Scripture: James 4:11-17

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. As God's friends, we're to do the things that please God.
2. Sharing the Gospel should be a great blessing in our lives daily and weekly.
3. James calls us to humility recognizing that the law comes from God and so He's judge.
4. When we realize we cannot determine our lives, we're to humbly trust God and leave all judgment to Him.
5. Tale-bearing is to share stories about a situation which are not genuinely necessary for prayer and redemptive help.
6. By presumptuously judging in an arrogant manner, we're violating the law ourselves. We're also implying that God needs our assistance in rendering judgment on the individual in question.
7. When we speak evil of the law, we're bringing God Himself into question, judging Him.
8. Evil-speaking against God and brother/sister is a most common offense mentioned in the Bible.
9. When you speak against a brother who is a walking covenant-keeper, you are speaking against the Torah itself.
10. In an evil-speaking society like ours, we're compromising respect for God Himself.
11. There is one Law-giver. He is on the throne of history, governing sovereignly all of creation.
12. It is difficult to be around fault-finders who undermine the unity of God's church.
13. Apart from Christ, the law is a bill of indictment against us. In Christ, the law is spiritual, holy, just and good, a pattern of life for us. (Galatians 2:9; Romans 7:4-14)
14. The OT ceremonial types are operative now in the intercession of Christ.

15. God's law means all that God had to say, and it's all good news to the believer.
16. Peter received special revelation from God in Acts 10 before he could set foot in a Gentile home. Peter's assumption was that all of God's Word applies, until God says something else.
17. We can't govern the future; we're to be humbled by the uncertainty of our lives.
18. We don't merely preface our plans with "if the Lord wills", but we want embedded in our character the knowledge that our lives are under God's control.
19. God gave His law not that we should censor it, but that we should keep it.
20. To suggest you can govern the future or remake the world is to boast against Christ.

Application Questions:

1. If we all honour one another in our speech, how will it affect our covenant community?
2. Do I seek to discharge myself from duty to obey the law by latching onto negative NT law references?
3. Do I live a profane life, living as a practical atheist, instead of praying and submitting to God each moment?
4. Am I a doer of the law, or a judge of it?
5. How is the uncertainty of my life teaching me to trust God and to value the present?
6. Are we living as though God is the Lord of eternity and the definer of life, law and liberty?
7. How does James 4:17 undergird and emphasize the teachings of the passage?