

Things to Avoid

4:1 ¹WHAT is the source of quarrels and ^aconflicts among you? ²Is not the source your pleasures that wage ^bwar in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; *so* you ^acommit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and ^ado not receive, because you ask ¹with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* ²on your pleasures. 4 You ^aadulteresses, do you not know that friendship with ^bthe world is ^chostility toward God? ^dTherefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture ^aspeaks to no purpose: “¹He ²jealously desires ^bthe Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? 6 But ^aHe gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “^bGOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” 7 ^aSubmit therefore to God. ^bResist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 ^aDraw near to God and He will draw near to you. ^bCleanse your hands, you sinners; and ^cpurify your hearts, you ^ddouble-minded. 9 ^aBe miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. 10 ^aHumble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

11 ^aDo not speak against one another, ^bbrethren. He who speaks against a brother, or ^cjudges his brother, speaks against ^dthe law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not ^ea doer of the law, but a judge *of* it. 12 There is *only* one ^aLawgiver and Judge, the One who is ^bable to save and to destroy; but ^cwho are you who judge your neighbor?

13 ^aCome now, you who say, “^bToday or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 ¹Yet you do not know ²what your life will be like tomorrow. ^aYou are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 ¹Instead, *you ought* to say, “^aIf the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your ¹arrogance; ^aall such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, ^ato one who knows *the* ¹right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

i

¹ Lit., *Whence wars and whence fightings*

^a Titus 3:9

² Lit., *Are they not hence*, from your

^b Rom. 7:23

^a James 5:6; 1 John 3:15

^a 1 John 3:22; 5:14

¹ Lit., *wickedly*

² Lit., *in*

^a Jer. 2:2; Ezek. 16:32

^b James 1:27

^c Rom. 8:7; 1 John 2:15

^d Matt. 6:24; John 15:19

^a Num. 23:19

¹ Or, *The Spirit which He has made to dwell in us jealously desires us*

² Lit., *desires to jealousy*

^b 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16

^a Is. 54:7f.; Matt. 13:12

^b Ps. 138:6; Prov. 3:34; Matt. 23:12; 1 Pet. 5:5

^a 1 Pet. 5:6

^b Eph. 4:27; 6:11f.; 1 Pet. 5:8f.

^a 2 Chr. 15:2; Zech. 1:3; Mal. 3:7; Heb. 7:19

^b Job 17:9; Is. 1:16; 1 Tim. 2:8

^c Jer. 4:14; James 3:17; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 3:3

^d James 1:8

^a Neh. 8:9; Prov. 14:13; Luke 6:25

^a Job 5:11; Ezek. 21:26; Luke 1:52; James 4:6

^a 2 Cor. 12:20; James 5:9; 1 Pet. 2:1

^b James 1:16; 5:7, 9, 10

^c Matt. 7:1; Rom. 14:4

^d James 2:8

^e James 1:22

^a Is. 33:22; James 5:9

^b Matt. 10:28

^c Rom. 14:4

^a James 5:1

^b Prov. 27:1; Luke 12:18-20

¹ Lit., *Who do not*

² Some mss. read *the morrow; for what kind of life is yours*

^a Job 7:7; Ps. 39:5; 102:3; 144:4

¹ Lit., *Instead of your saying*

^a Acts 18:21

¹ Or, *pretensions*

^a 1 Cor. 5:6

^a Luke 12:47; John 9:41; 2 Pet. 2:21

¹ Or, *good*

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.