

Valleys in Motivation

James 4:13-17

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show some things that can keep us from having the motivation we need.

Intro: 1. Knowing God's will and not doing it is dangerous, and sinful.
2. There is a gap for some between knowing the Bible and applying it to our daily lives.

I. Some are Double-Minded (**James 1:8**)

- A. The double-minded person has not fully committed himself to Christ (**Gal 2:20**)
- B. His mind is not set on things above (**Col 3:1-3**)
- C. He seeks to serve the Lord and the devil (**Mt 6:24**)

II. Temptation Keeps Some from Really Doing God's Will (**James 1:13-16**)

- A. Devil "entices" men to do wrong.
 - 1. The devil may seem to say "God is keeping good things from you; God is short changing you" (**Gen 3:4-5**)
 - 2. He may say, "Enjoy yourself, you are only young once. Eat, drink and be merry" (**Heb 11:24-25**).
- B. People become so involved in wrong-doing that they lose the desire to do right (**Heb 3:12-13; 1 Tim 4:16**).

III. Self-Deception often produces the valley between knowing and doing (**James 1:22**)

- A. Adam blamed his wife and God (**Gen 3:12**)
- B. One may deceive himself into believing that he will be one exception to the rule.
 - 1. Those who do not obey the gospel will be lost! But God will make an exception in my case (**Rom 2:6,11**)
 - 2. "Lukewarm Christians disgust God, but I am one lukewarm Christian who doesn't" (**Rev 3:16**)
 - 3. "Most unfaithful Christians will go to hell, excluding me" (**James 5:19-20**)

IV. Trust in the Future often leads to the valley between knowing and doing (**James 4:13-17**).

- A. There is a delusion of a convenient season (**Acts 24:25**).
- B. Jesus had to work while it was day, we must also (**John 9:4**).

V. Lessons for us today

- A. How can the gap be closed?
 - 1. The scriptures teach that life is uncertain & brief (**James 4:13-14**)
 - 2. Knowing and not doing is sin (**James 4:17**).

Application & Conclusion:

- 1. We must not hold to the future as if there will always be more time, there may not be.
- 2. Act and live for God today, while you can.
- 3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9