

# The Epistle Of James

**James 3:13 (NKJV)**

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.”

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a quill pen, poised to write on a page of an open book. The book's pages are aged and yellowed. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown.

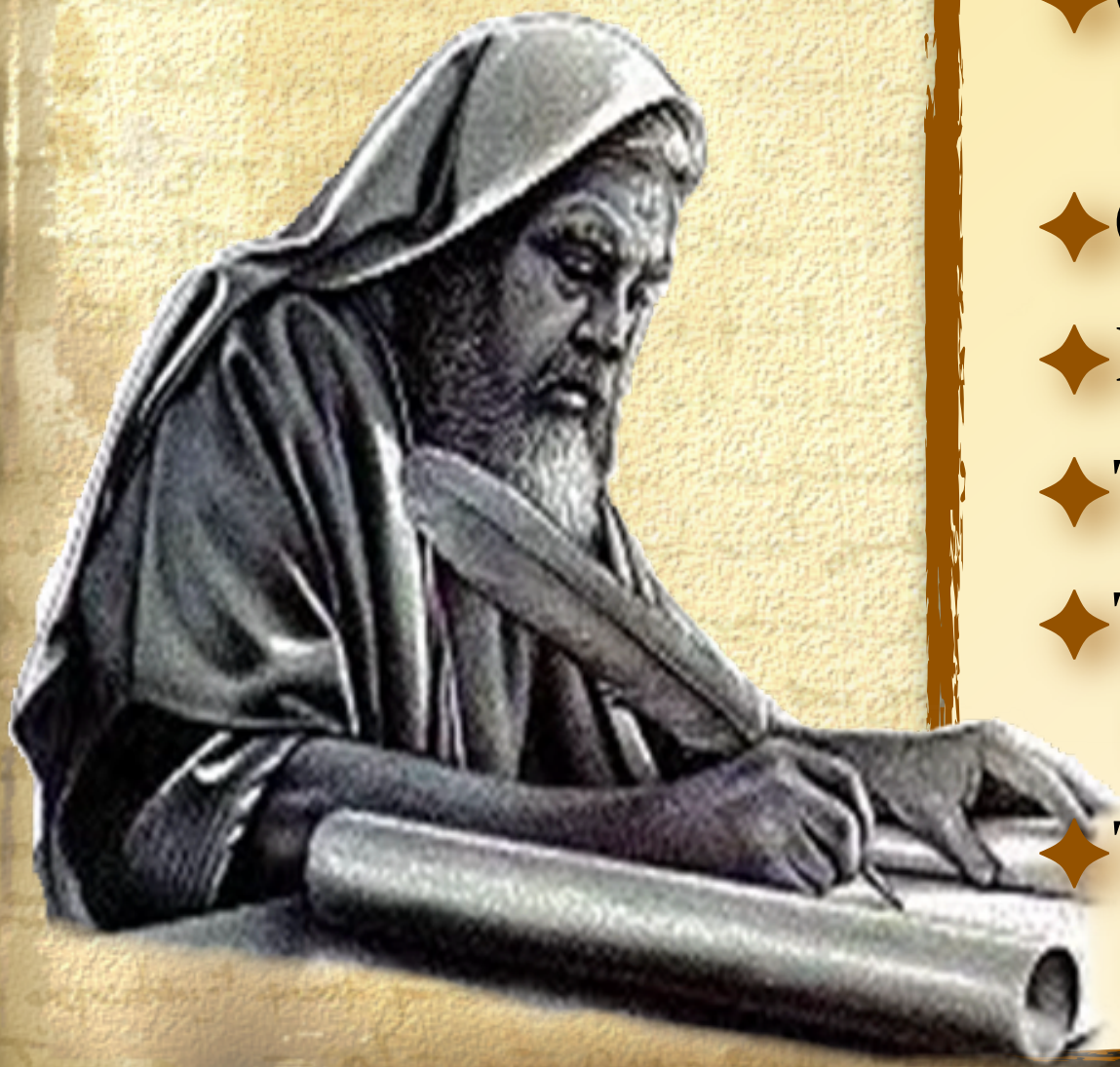
“Wars, Worldliness,  
And God's Will”

James 4:1-12



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*



- ◆ Enduring trials through faith - 1:1-12
- ◆ Overcoming temptation to do evil through faith - 1:13-16
- ◆ Overcoming anger through faith - 1:17-19
- ◆ Being doers of the word by faith - 1:20-27
- ◆ The sin of favoritism / prejudice - 2:1-13
- ◆ The faith that does not save and the ONLY kind of faith that does - 2:14-26
- ◆ The power of the tongue and our need to control it - 3:1-12



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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## James 3:13-18

### Two Kinds of Wisdom / Two Kinds of Fruit

earthly, sensual, demonic

envy

self-seeking

confusion

every evil thing

the wisdom that is from above

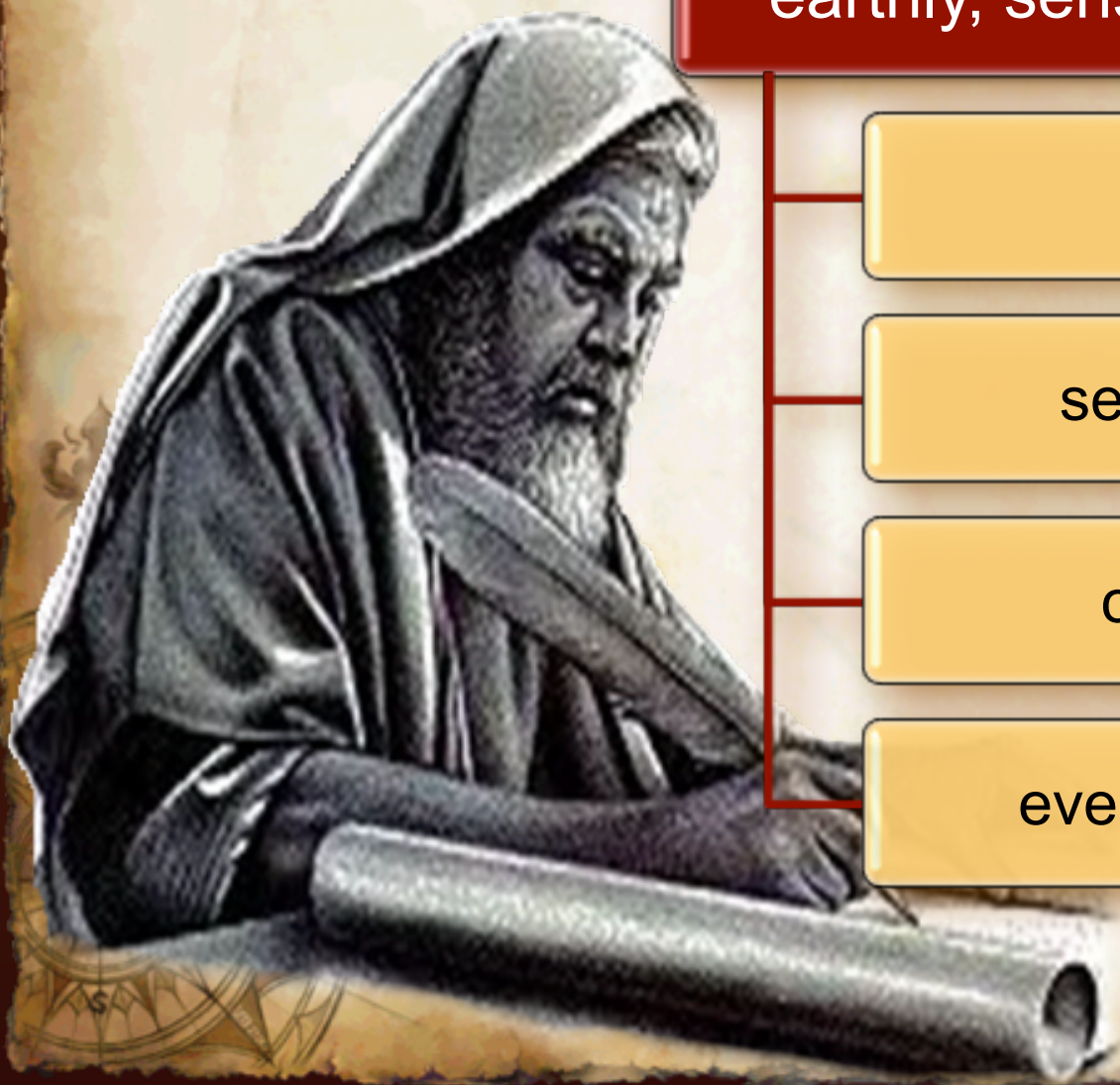
pure, peaceable

gentle, willing to yield

merciful, good fruits,

impartiality, not  
hypocritical -

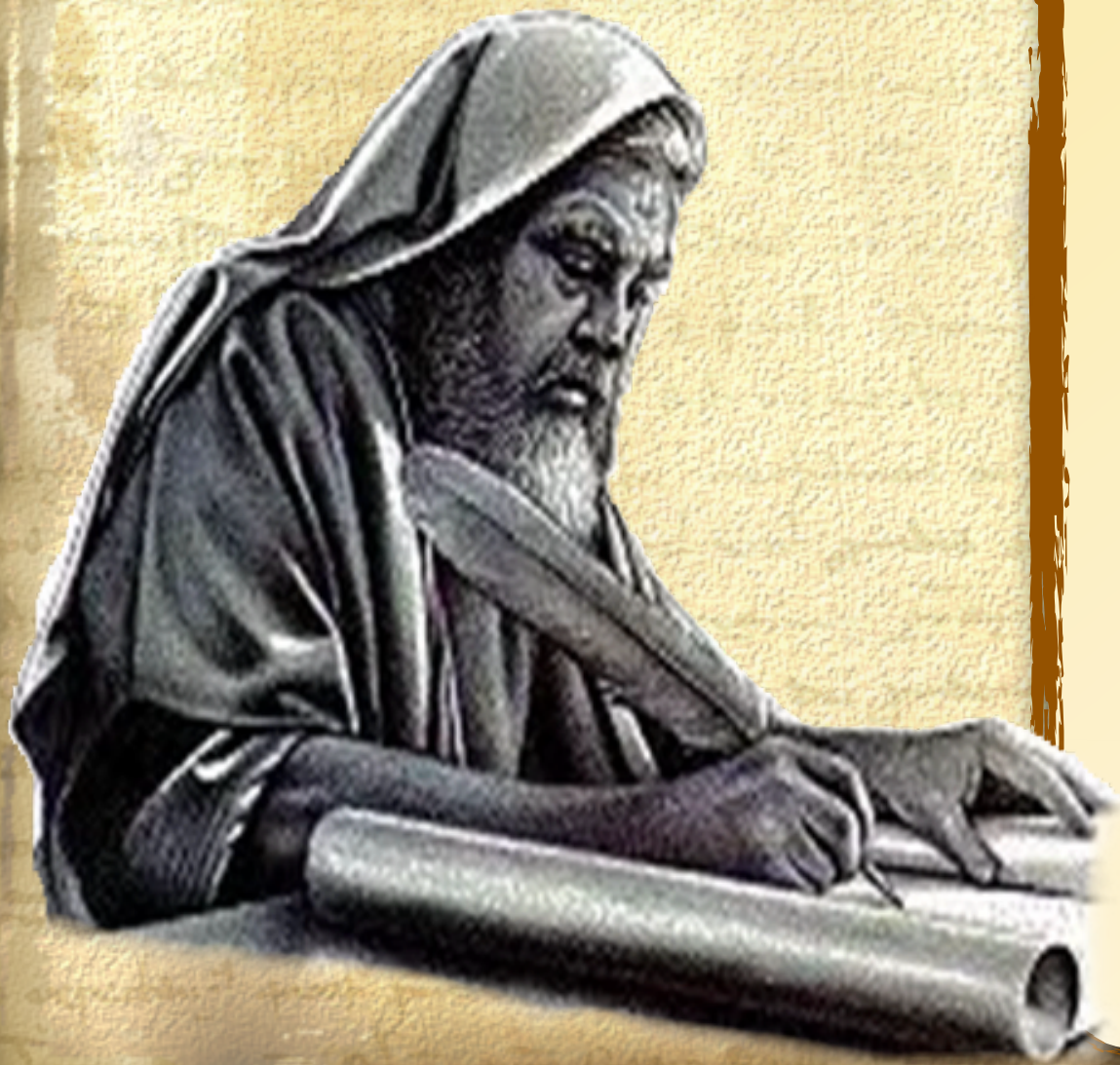
peace





# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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- ◆ James Chapter 4 is the outgrowth of Chapter 3
- ◆ There has always been problems within the church because of worldly wisdom
- ◆ The results of worldliness infecting the church is tragic
- ◆ In our text James describes three different wars -



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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## **James 4:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not come from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.



# **"Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"**

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## **James 4:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

*"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."*



# **"Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"**

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## **James 4:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.



# **"Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"**

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## **James 4:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Do not speak evil of one another, brethren.

He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup> There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.

Who are you to judge another?



# **"Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"**

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

*"Where do wars and fights come from among you?"*



◆ **Fighting with others -**

1:1,11,12

◆ **Fighting against ourselves - 2-3**

◆ **Fighting against God - 4-6**

◆ **How to put an end to all the fighting - 7-10**



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## War With Each Other (I, II-12)

**James 4:1 (NKJV)**

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

- ◆ "Brethren" ought to live together in love and harmony - (Psalm 133:1 -*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*)
- ◆ Yet often they do not - (*War and fighting is the opposite of the peace spoken of in 3:18*). - 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-4; Rom 12:18
- ◆ Sometimes wars are necessary - (*a Christian CAN be in the right and be at war*) - 1 Tim 1:18; Jude 1:3; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 2:11; 5:10-15



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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## War With Each Other (I, II-12)

### **James 4:1 (NKJV)**

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

- ◆ Most wars among brethren are NOT necessary -
  - ✳ 1) They defeated my pet project war -
  - ✳ 2) They won't let me teach war -
  - ✳ 3) My ideas are not appreciated war -
- ◆ Too often - instead of brethren fighting against the evil one that God's will be done, they are fighting each other over matters of liberty or opinion because of bad attitudes!



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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## War With Each Other (I, II-12)

**James 4:1 (NKJV)**

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

- ◆ It is possible, that when conflict arises, that one party may be in the right - but at least one party is in the wrong - & possibly both!
- ◆ There are negative consequences whenever a war breaks out within the church - *(No army can be victorious when its members turn away from being loyal to the state and King and fight among themselves)* - Gal 5:15; Ex. 13:17; Mat 23:13; Luke 11:52; Mark 3:24



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## War Against Ourselves (1-3)

### **James 4:2 (NKJV)**

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

- ◆ The source, or root cause of infighting is pride & selfishness - worldly wisdom! - (3:14-16)
- ◆ Such selfish desires lead to wrong actions:
  - ✳ "you lust . . ." - 1 Tim 6:9,10
  - ✳ "you murder . . ." - 1 Jn 3:15
  - ✳ "you fight and war . . ." - 2 Cor 12:20
  - ✳ "Failure to pray or selfish prayer



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## War Against Ourselves (1-3)

### **James 4:2 (NKJV)**

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

- ◆ Some brethren had failed to conquer their flesh - (*they were losing their inward war*) - Gal. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:11; Col 3:5
- ◆ When are guided by earthly wisdom - the results are inevitable -
  - ✳ *We cause problems within the body of Christ -*
  - ✳ *We cause problems of conflict and guilt within our own minds - (losing inward peace)*
  - ✳ *We become enemies of God -*



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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## War Against God (4,5)

### **James 4:4 (NKJV)**

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- ◆ If we ARE all truly at peace with God - how would that effect our relationship with one another?
- ◆ How does a believer declare war against God? - By being friendly with that which is contrary and against God -
  - ✳ *Love not the world - 1 John 2:15-17*
  - ✳ *Keep oneself unspotted from the world - James 1:27*
  - ✳ *Set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth - Col. 3:1-3*



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- ✳ **Worldly friends** - 1 Cor. 15:33
- ✳ **Worldly habits** - 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Pet 2:19
- ✳ **Worldly assimilation** - 1 Pet 4:2-4
- ✳ **Worldly love** - (one is led to love the world more than God - becomes comfortable in their sin) - 1 John 2:15-17
- ✳ **Worldly insatiable desires** - (This world cannot satisfy - the worldly minded person is led from one evil deed to another) - Prov 27:20; Ecc. 5:10



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

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## War Against God (4,5)

**James 4:5 (NKJV)**

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

- ◆ This is one of the most difficult verses to translate in the entire letter.
- ✳ *Is the "spirit" the Holy Spirit or the human spirit? - Is the spirit to be taken as the subject of the verb "yearns" or as its object? - Is "envy" to be seen as "unrighteous desire" or as "righteous jealousy"?*
- ◆ It is true that God is a jealous God and demands obedience - it is also true that God yearns for our hearts - and it is also true that God did not make us, nor intends for us to lust for evil things.



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## The Path To Peace (6-10)

### **James 4:6,7 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

◆ **God resists the proud** - Prov 3:37; 1 Pet 5:5; Mat 23:12; Luke 18:14

◆ **Therefore - humble yourself & submit To God (6,7)**

✳ *Literally, "get into your proper rank"*

✳ *Pride is Satan's greatest temptation*

✳ *Unconditional surrender to God is the only way to victory!*

✳ *God saves only those who humbly submit to His will, obeying Him by faith - Mat 7:21-23; Heb 5:8,9*



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## The Path To Peace (6-10)

### **James 4:6,7 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

### ◆ **Resist The Devil (7)**

✳ He is behind every war that we have - (1 Pet 5:8; Mat 13:39; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10)

✳ But if we just resist, then he will flee! (Eph 4:27; 1 Pet 5:8,9; Eph 6:10-18; 1 Cor. 10:13)



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## The Path To Peace (6-10)

### **James 4:8 (NKJV)**

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### **How do we draw near to God?**

- ◆ "Cleanse your hands" - i.e., Get your sins forgiven and do what's right!
  - ✱ *Alien sinners - Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized*
  - ✱ *Christians - Repent, Confess, Pray*
- ◆ "Purify your hearts" - Be single-minded in your devotion to God!  
(not double-minded, like a spiritual adulterer)



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

## The Path To Peace (6-10)

### **James 4:9,10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

### **Humble Yourselves In The Sight Of God (9-10)**

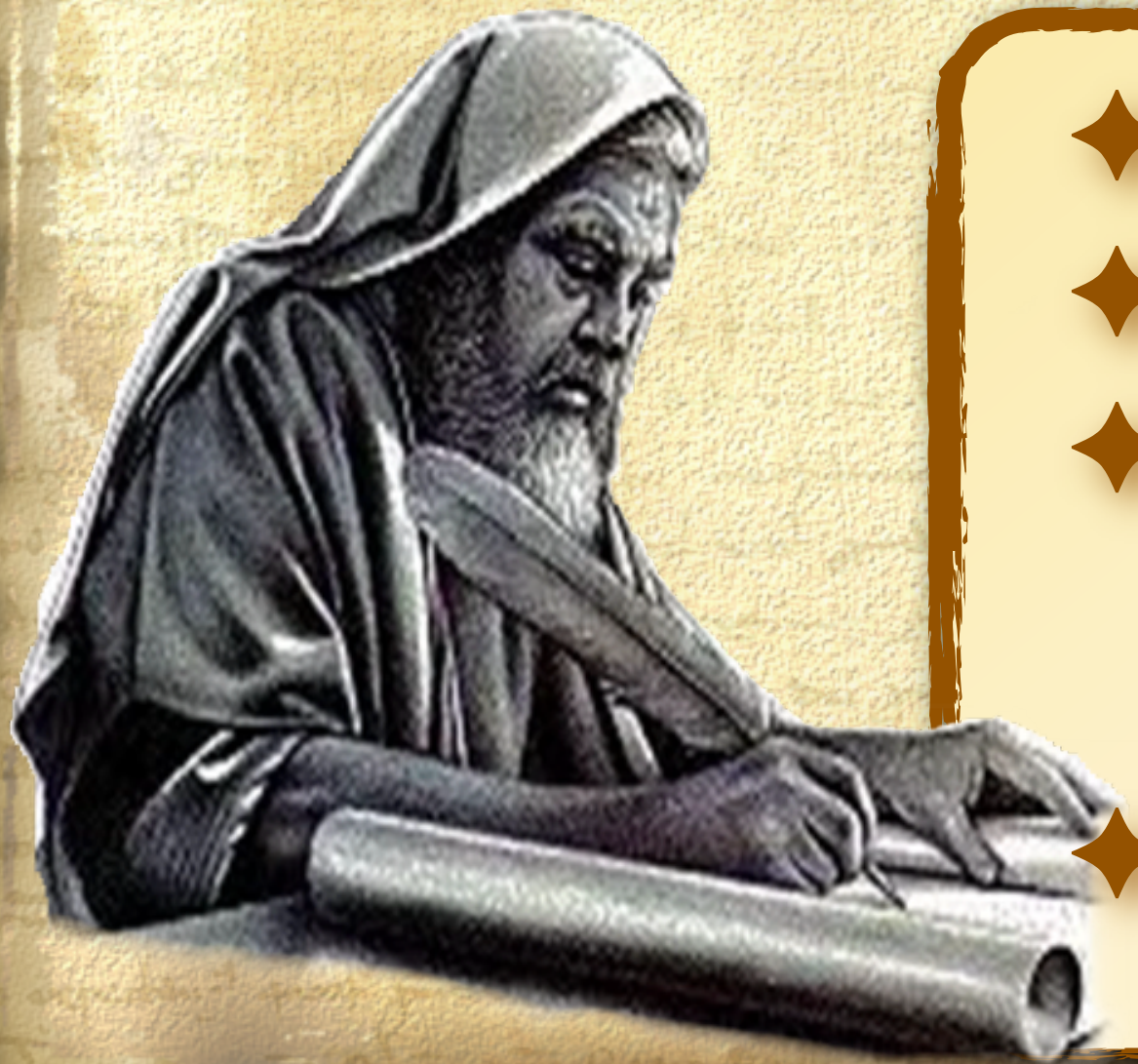
- ◆ Sin is no laughing matter! - Mat 5:29,30; Mark 9:43-48
- ◆ True repentance is required - i.e., we need to see sin in all of its ugliness and turn away from it - flee from it - and mourn over what it has done to ourselves and others - Mat 5:3-6



# "Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

**If we obey God, He will draw near to us, cleanse us, and forgive us!**



- ◆ Submit To God (7)
- ◆ Resist The Devil (7)
- ◆ Draw Near To God (8)  
("Cleanse your hands" - "Purify your hearts")
- ◆ Humble Yourselves In The Sight Of God (9-10)



# **"Wars, Worldliness, And God's Will"**

*The Problem & Solution of Evil Hearts Among Believers*

**If we obey God, He will draw near to us, cleanse us, and forgive us!**



**If We Are At Peace  
With God!**

**We Will Be At Peace  
With Ourselves!**

**We Will Be At Peace  
With One Another!**







# "Two Wisdoms"

*Heavenly? or Earthly, Sensual, Demonic?*

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared July 14, 15, 2012

Preached July 15, 2012

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