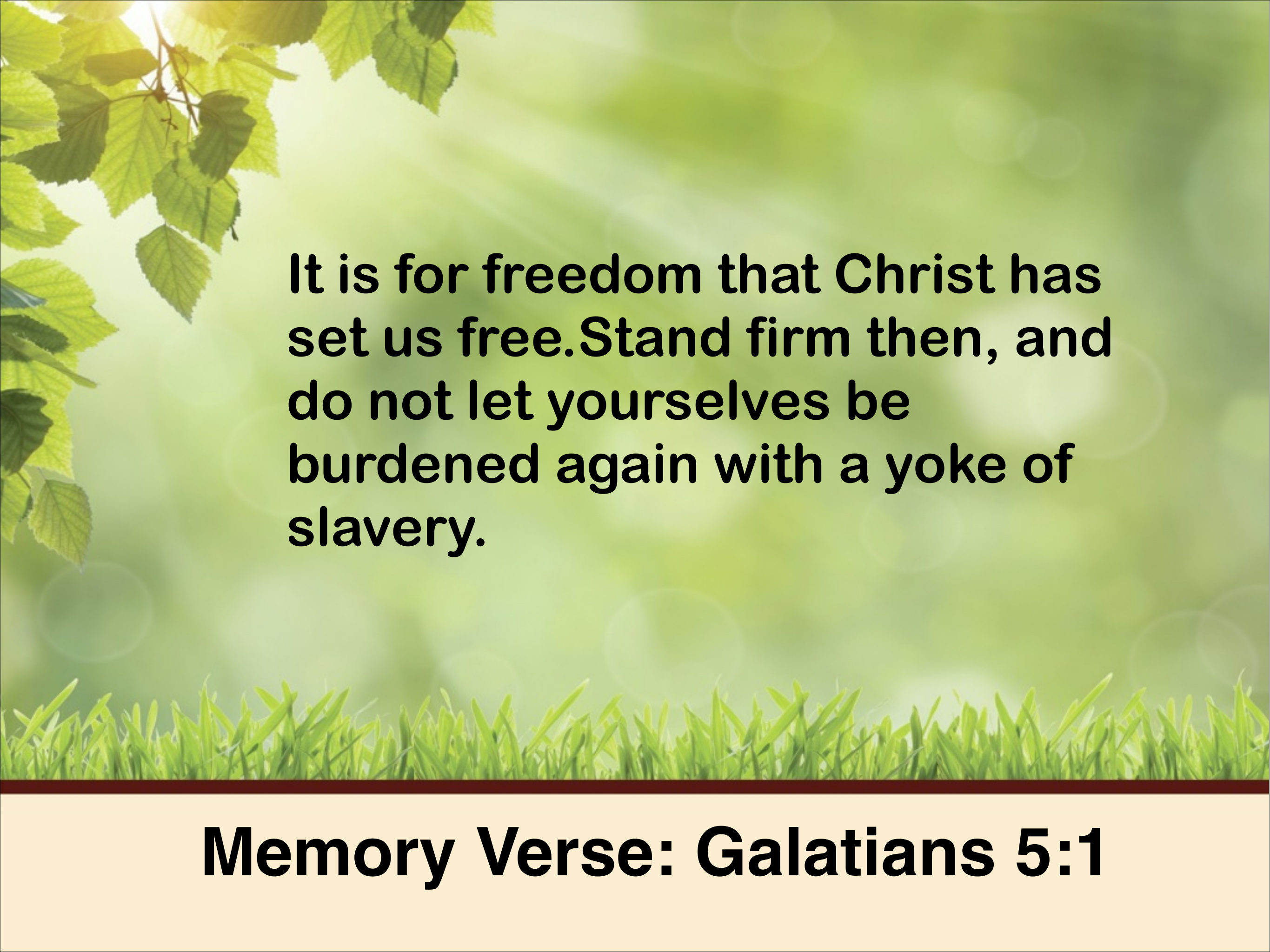


Receiving
God's
Abundant
Gifts



Lesson 15: Living in God's Will



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again with a yoke of slavery.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:1



Themes of James 4: 11-5:6

- **Faultfinding (11-12)**
- **Arrogant Self-Sufficiency (13-17)**
- **Denunciation of the Wicked Rich (5:1-6)**

Faultfinding vs. Slander

“Do not slander” is more accurately translated: “Do not speak against one another”.

To Slander = make false charges or misrepresentations that damage another’s reputation.

The Greek word used in James refers to any form of speaking against someone else. What is said may be true in content but harsh and unkind in tone.

Expositor’s Bible Commentary

James condemns it because:

- ❖ **It is a breach of the royal law that we should love our neighbors as ourselves (James 2:8, Leviticus 19:18). To knowingly break a law is to set yourself above it-- to “judge the law” as James puts it.**
- ❖ **It is an infringement on the prerogative of God who alone has the right of judgment on our fellow human beings.**



Who should not be slandered?

James is exhorting his readers/listeners not to slander fellow believers. Slander and gossip was undermining the Christian fellowship in the different cities where they have fled, and they need to stand firm and united against threats of persecution from outsiders.

Arrogant Self Sufficiency: Historical Background to James 4:13-17

- **The Jews were the great traders of the ancient world.**
- **This was an age of the founding of cities which were looking for citizens to occupy them.**
- **Citizenship was freely offered to the Jews because where they came, trade and commerce followed.**
- **James' example probably covered the experience of many of his reader/listeners who left Jerusalem because of persecution and settled around the Roman empire.**

No one has a right to make a confident plan for the future because we do not know what even a day may bring.

BUT the uncertainty of life is not a cause for fear or for inaction it is a reason for realizing our complete dependence on God.

William Barclay

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what the day may bring.

Proverbs 27:1

**I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills.
1 Cor.4:19**

**Why does James turn
from a stern warning
against slander to a
vigorous condemnation
of the rich?**



Who are the Wicked Rich?

They are NOT fellow Christians because they are not called “brothers” and not called on to repent.

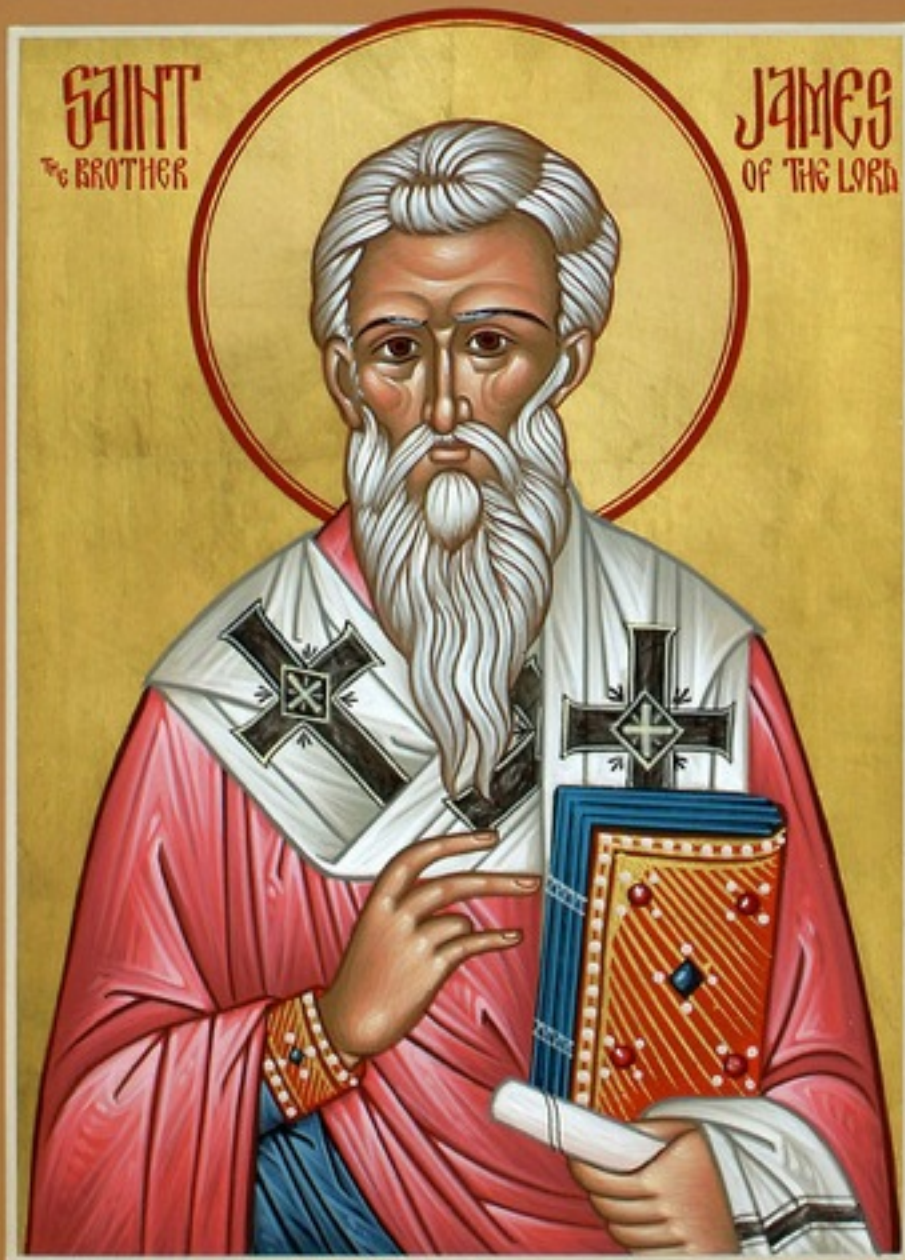
This prophecy is aimed at the Jerusalem elite--the Sadducees and the chief priests--who enriched themselves with the proceeds of the pilgrimages and sacrifices brought by faithful Jews and who were concerned with staying in power and keeping the peace for the Romans.

The wicked rich had hoarded so much food and clothing that it was going to waste while the poor were oppressed.

The wicked rich hoarded their wealth instead of putting it to use in the economy of the area.

The wicked rich were not paying their employees the wages that were due for their labor.

The wicked rich lived in extravagant luxury and wasteful indulgence.



“James the brother of the Lord, surnamed the Just, was made head of the church in Jerusalem...He drank neither wine nor strong drink, ate no flesh, never shaved or anointed himself...he went alone into the temple and prayed in behalf of the people, insomuch that his knees were reputed to have acquired the hardness of camel’s knees.”

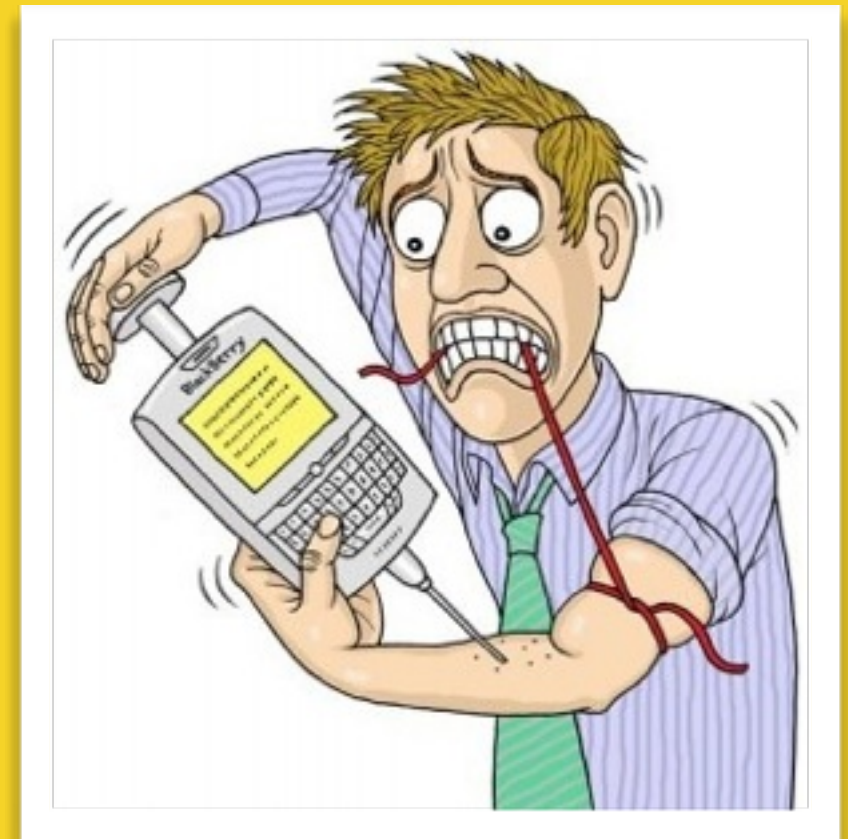
Hegesippus, fifth book of commentaries, quoted by Jerome.

James Echoes Jesus' Warnings to the Rich

James 5: 1-6	Luke 6:24-26
You rich people weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you	Woe to you who are rich
You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence	Woe to you who laugh now for you will mourn and weep
You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter	Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.
You have hoarded wealth in the last days	You have already received your comfort

It is alarmingly commonplace, even among Christians, to be overextended in commitments, to be stressed because of time pressures, and to become dissatisfied, compulsive people.”

IVP New Testament Commentaries on James 4



I'd love to get some face time with you when your face isn't buried in your phone.



som_{ee}cards

If the devil can't make you sin, he will make you too busy and that's just as bad.

James Dobson

ivp



CRAZY BUSY

A [MERCIFULLY]
SHORT BOOK
ABOUT A [REALLY]
BIG PROBLEM

KEVIN DEYOUNG

“By sitting at the feet of Jesus, we will grow more like him...We’ll see that our screens do not satisfy like our Savior. We’ll see that wisdom was not born yesterday, or 34 seconds ago on social media. We’ll learn to keep our complaints to a minimum and our eyes on the cross. And we’ll become more helpful to those around us.”

Link to the video is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU>



MDPC Bible Study Discussion Facebook Page

- Extras from the Teaching Leaders
- Interaction with BSD friends
- Reminders and encouragement

Not on Facebook?
Just google
“MDPC Bible Study
Discussion”
for a link to the
Facebook page
Make it a Favorite!



Applying the Lesson In Your Life

**What distracts you from
living in God's will?
How can you resist that
distraction?**