

# LEAVING GOD OUT

## JAMES 4:13-17

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: In order not to “leave God out”, I believe that three “meetings” are important and compliment each other: (1) Meet in church. (2) Meet in small groups. (3) Most importantly, meet one on One with the Lord Jesus.

**RESULTS IN LACK OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.** “In the New Testament sin also is viewed as a lack of fellowship with God... Anything that disturbs or distorts that fellowship is sin.” Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, p. 1506. Church attendance and participating in small groups both contribute to our growth and understanding. But, by far, fellowship with the Lord by listening to God’s heart in the study of His Word and prayer and thus enjoying the presence of the Holy Spirit is the most rewarding and fulfilling. (James 4:13, 14, fn 4:13-16, fn 4:14, Psalm 37:3-7, fn 37:4, 5, Proverbs 27:1, Luke 12:16-21, fn 12:15) *If you are not already doing so, what steps do you need to take to have daily fellowship with the Lord?*

**RESULTS IN LACK OF TRUSTING GOD’S WILL.** “(God willing) before and after everything in life presupposes a life of dependent prayer in which all is taken before God. It means, further, a profound submission, for ‘God willing’ truly said from the heart cannot produce anything else.” R. Kent Hughes, James: Faith That Works, p.206. (James 4:15, 16, Ephesians 5:15-17, I John 5:13-15, fn 5:14, 15 Romans 12:1, 2, fn 12:1, 2, Psalm 90:12, fn 90:12) *How could you know God’s will in making daily, godly decisions?*

**RESULTS IN FAILURE TO PRACTICE GOODNESS.** You tell your children to be good. Shouldn’t you also tell them to do good? The “Royal Law” tells you how to love your neighbor (the person closest to you.) When you see this person in need and it is in your power to help, God’s goodness is shown as you help your needy neighbor. To not help is to sin. (James 4:17, fn 4:17, John 9:40, 41, fn 9:40, 41, Luke 12:42-48, fn 12:42-44, fn 12:48, Luke 10:25-37, fn 10:27-37, Acts 10:38) *In order to do good, why is it important for you to be led by the Holy Spirit?*

*Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?*

