

Sunday AM - Session 1 - 1/29/2012 **"Implicit Obedience" - James 4:7**

Review:

LEGALISM IS A RELIGIOUS SYSTEM THAT TEACHES THAT A PERSON CAN DO SOMETHING TO EARN OR MERIT SALVATION OR BLESSING FROM GOD.

Too many think they can do something for blessings from God. We must therefore distinguish between religious practices and Christianity:

Key Definitions:

Religion is any system in which man by his own efforts tries to earn God's approval.

Legalism is a religious system that teaches that a person can do something to earn or merit salvation or blessing from God.

[Read James 4:1-7.](#)

James 4:7

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist (oppose) the devil, and he will flee from you."

In verses 7-10 there are 10 verbs in the imperative mood; ten commands given:

*"(7) **Submit** therefore to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you. (8) **Draw** near to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts, you double-minded. (9) **Be miserable** and **mourn** and **weep**; **let** your laughter **be turned** into mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) **Humble** yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."*

When God gives a command, He also gives a way for that command to be fulfilled. It is sad so many go through life without ever understanding this principle.

Also in these verses are 10 verbs in the aorist tense; meaning an emphasis at points of time at history. KURIOTES is a word to describe *our* Leader, our Commanding Officer. Thus there is an emphasis on authority under God's Plan and leadership.

Submit and Resist are two powerful words - commands from the Lord.

Authority

1. God has established a Plan for the order and survival of the human race.
2. This relates to man after the time of depravity, and especially in the Church Age, a time of intensified difficulty.
3. God has set out some rules (laws or commands).

4. These laws did not operate before the fall, only after the fall, until the time of the 2nd Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. These rules relate both to the believer and the unbeliever.
6. Authority is God's Plan; He established it to protect and preserve the human race.
7. To reject these laws results always in decay, debasement, disintegration, delusion, deterioration and destruction, either individually, collectively, or both.
8. The very foundation of authority is volition, our free choice. All people are free moral agents with the ability to make decisions on a daily basis. The right to live freely as an adult is a God-given privilege. The boundaries of choice become restricted when a person's volition violates the privacy, property or the persons of others.
9. Another law of authority is the institution of marriage; God has designed marriage as a basis for the stability of a society, but His plan for marriage also extends to the individuals in the family. Promiscuity, debauchery and infidelity all disrupt this beautiful plan God has designed, and brings harm to those who violate these principles.
10. Family and family life also fit into God's design of authority. Commonly there are two times in life when a person is totally helpless; at birth, and at old age when the person is dependent on loved ones and to help them.

AKOUO means to hear, HUP means under
HUP-AKOUO means to *hear under authority*

TASSO means to stand, HUPO means under
HUPO-TASSO means to *stand under authority*

EXEGESIS of James 4:7

Literal Translation of James 4:7

Submit yourselves
ὑποτάγητε
(APImp 2nd p.pl. of ὑποτάσσω)

therefore to God
οὖν τῷ θεῷ

Resist (oppose) the
ἀντίστητε δὲ τῷ
(AAImp 2nd p.pl. of ἀνθίστημι)

devil, and he will flee
διαβόλῳ καὶ φεύξεται
(FMIInd 3rd p.s. of φεύγω)

from you.
ἀφ' ὑμῶν

SUBMIT means to subject yourself to One's control; to yield to One's admonition or advise; to arrange yourself under the command of a commanding officer, so that when you hear that Person, you obey what's being said.

This is the Aorist Tense (emphasizing at a point of time in history)

Passive voice means that the subject receives the action, BUT *does not exclude* our responsibility as believers to submit - we are not robots! We are to *choose* to be in submission to His control.

The Bible Teaches the Importance of Submission

1. The Word of God is constituted authority: we are to submit to it.
2. The Word of God in the local church is also constituted authority; the pastor there has a heavy responsibility.
3. We have free choice under God's design of constituted authority.
4. The husband is the constituted authority in marriage.
5. Parents are the constituted authority in the institution of family.
6. Local laws are the constituted authority in a community.
7. In the academic world, there is constituted authority.
8. In athletics, the coach is the constituted authority for proper execution of the athletic competition. There is chaos in every institution without authority.
9. In the business there is constituted authority; the CEO, the boss, the line supervisor
10. In the military there is constituted authority in the chain of command.
11. A position of authority is a position of humility - not arrogance!

"Submit yourselves therefore to God..."