

18 April 2010 - Preached by Dr Paul Ferguson
Message Topic: **Cannot fight God and Win**
Scripture Text: James 4:4-6

1. The Book of James was written around AD46 and it was only about 15 years after the New Testament Church started that we see the church has declined. James has to address the issues facing the Church in worldliness, divisions etc.
2. In Chapter 4, James posed the question of the reasons for strife when we see wars, family conflicts and corporation cheats etc.
3. The four reasons are:
 - (a) verse 1 - lust in ourselves: self indulgence, self-centred, selfish desires.
 - (b) verse 2 - refusal to seek God's help
 - (c) verse 3 - when we pray, we pray amiss with wrong motive for selfish gain
 - (d) verse 4 - worldliness: friendship with the world
4. The Bible reminds us that friendship with the world is enmity with God. This is a fact every Christian knows yet often we still want the world and Jesus Christ. This is really being unfaithful to Jesus Christ.
5. Being worldly means we adopt the ornaments of the world where we follow the values and thoughts of the world. Lot was an example of a carnal Christian and in the end, he lost everything. Lot started with a look at Sodom, then pitched his tent towards it, which was followed by dwelling in Sodom and finally sitting at the gate where he conforms totally with the people in Sodom.
6. God provides a way to overcome worldliness which is only by His grace that can give us the power to live right. God wants us to be humble to receive His grace. All problems of sins and materialism are rooted in man and all solution and salvation for man are rooted in God.