*Thursday, July 18, 2013*

**Vanity**

James 4:14-17 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeared for a little time, and then vanishes away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. (KJV)

While watching a commercial recently the person made the statement that they have big plans in life, all these things they were going to do, none of which involved God or His leading. Do you have your life mapped out already, or have you decide to leave that up to the Lord who said that He is the only way, truth, as well as life that will get you to your eternal destination? Next time you spray something into the air think about your own life and how short a time we really do spend in this realm. Then you might ask yourself, is all that stuff I fretted about really worth it?

1 Peter 2:11-12 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (KJV)

Pilgrims are people that are passing through, heading for something better, their homeland. A stranger is someone who is not from these parts, but lives a different way according to their culture. You are in this world, but you should not really be a part of it because you are not going to be around much longer. So instead of giving ear to a bunch of silly petty fleshly lusts that will never get you to the place you need to be, cast down all those imaginations and get back into reality.

James 4:1-3 From whence come wars and fighting’s among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (KJV)

The thief comes to steal your attention from God, which will result in you dying spiritually, thus destroying you for eternity. The writer James is describing what leads to that dead end, seeking to satisfy the carnal man more than the spiritual one.

James 4:4-6 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit that dwells in us lusted to envy? 6 But he gives more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisted the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. (KJV)

Pride comes right before the fall which is what happens when man gets more involved with the things of this world. Many relationships are based on what man’s lower nature becomes attached to and not what God would approve of, and this puts one in the category of a spiritual adulterer.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (KJV)

God is very clear and specific about what He approves of concerning gaining entrance into His kingdom. If any of these labels above are still attached to your name someday then you will have an eternity to ponder what should have been.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.