

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

A FRIEND OF GOD

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART THIRTY ONE OF SIXTY FOUR*

One of the greatest joys of life is to be a friend to others, and to be considered their friend. A greater joy is to be a friend of God. The great patriarch, Abraham, is so identified. "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God" (James 2:23). As Abraham was the friend of God by his faith; so may you be. Abraham's faith was so great "that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar" (James 2:21). It was in this act of obedience to God that "faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect" (James 2:22). Abraham became a friend of God by the exercise of his faith in Jehovah. When you believe in God and will obey His word, you too can be a friend of God.

A friend is one who is loved and dear. While we desire to be friends with men, we may find it impossible because of evil demands some make for our friendship. But to be a friend of God requires no evil. In fact, it requires that we be good and obedient. Friendship with God is worth the sacrifice of any earthly friend. Thus Jesus said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37).

What some have never learned is that it is impossible to be a friend of God and a friend of the world of sin. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other" (Matthew 6:24). "Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

Select your friends wisely. Above all, be a friend of God by obeying Him.

(B. G. Echols)

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