

THE BEREAN

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

"GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD"

A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART FORTY FIVE OF SIXTY FOUR

Does God set Himself against you? Are you at war with the Almighty? While the thought is terrifying, the possibility is great. The Scriptures inform us many times that the pride of life in man causes God to oppose him. "God resisteth the proud" (James 4:6). God will not accept the man who in his conceit centers his whole life on himself. God gave man life with a purpose higher than self-glorification. "This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). The proud man centers his life in himself and the gratification of his senses. He becomes "puffed up" and does not love God (II Timothy 3:4). He makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:4), and God opposes him. When man gets lifted up with pride he falls into the condemnation of the devil (I Timothy 3:6). The wrath of God abides upon him. It is easy to acquire such an attitude. "Be subject therefore unto God" (James 4:7).

Pride often shows itself in contempt for God's servants. The arrogant despise the preaching of righteousness and purity. The haughty seek the heads of preachers as did Herodias (Matthew 14). Pride

opposes the teaching of Jesus and will not yield to the requirements of the gospel. Instead, it becomes "puffed up, knowing nothing, but doting about questionings and disputes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, wranglings of men corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth" (I Timothy 6:4,5). The Pharisees did not recognize their sins and in the religious pride and self-satisfaction "rejected for themselves the counsel of God, being not baptized..." (Luke 7:30). They fancied themselves conspicuous beyond others. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican" (Luke 18:11).

The man who thinks he outshines all others should beware. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). Any person who is trying to be saved by his own goodness will either end in utter despair or pride. The appraisal of self that makes one self-satisfied and vain-glorious produces a spirit with which God can do nothing. Every proud individual has a formidable foe - "God resisteth the proud." (B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257